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ARAB TIMES

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NEWSWATCH

Wheat diplomacy

LONDON, April 19, (Reuters)—Iran has bought wheat from Saudi Arabia through international traders after signs of improving relations between the two countries.

Details of the wheat sale, believed to be the first from Saudi Arabia to Iran, were sketchy but traders said it involved less than 100,000 tonnes.

"If there were any problems concerning diplomatic relations it (the wheat sale) would not have gone ahead," said one trader.

Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran a year ago after months of acrimony following a riot in Makkah in July 1987, in which more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed.

Zia's son sues

BAHRAIN, April 19, (AP)—The son of the late Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq said yesterday he has filed a \$1 billion lawsuit against the US aircraft manufacturer Lockheed in an effort to learn the cause of the plane crash in which his father was killed.

Ijaz-ul-Haq also repeated his charge the plane was sabotaged and claimed there was a cover-up by Pakistani officials "at the highest level."

He did not reveal any evidence that would back the sabotage claim.

Zia and 36 other people were killed when a Pakistani military transport plane exploded last Aug 17 shortly after take-off.

Star faces death

CAIRO, April 19, (Reuters)—Ahmed Kahlawi, a well-known Egyptian singer of religious songs, was charged with drug dealing yesterday and could face the death penalty if convicted.

Three other popular entertainers — Kahlawi's customers at a hashish party, according to the charges — face fines and, in one case, life in prison under an indictment issued by the state prosecutor.

Police raided Kahlawi's Cairo home on April 4 and allegedly found the 35-year-old singer sitting in a cloud of hashish smoke with three other stage stars and another friend. He is accused of selling the drugs.

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'Work stopped at Pak A-plant'

ISLAMABAD, April 19, (KUNA)—A prominent opposition leader has accused the Benazir government of stopping work in Pakistan's prestigious uranium enrichment plant "to appease the United States."

Talking to newsmen at a gathering here Iqbal Ahmed Khan, secretary-general of the Pakistan Muslim League, said that work must start at the plant because it was not only related to defence but also bolstering Pakistan's energy potential.

Relations with Iran improving: Crown Prince

KUWAIT, April 19, (KUNA)—HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has hoped the Iran-Iraq talks will lead to peace and stability in the Gulf region and said the Palestinian uprising (intifada) deserves further Arab backing.

Sheikh Saad said Kuwait's ties with Iran were moving towards "stability and normalisation."

"He added regional co-operation would have much greater prospects if the Iran-Iraq ceasefire holds and later turns into lasting peace."

The Crown Prince made the comments in an interview published today in the London-based Al Hawadeth weekly magazine.

Sheikh Saad said, to call the Palestinian revolution against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza an uprising, or intifada, is "unfair to those young heroes," in reference to the stone-throwing youths confronting Army troops in the occupied areas.

"The heroic struggle of those unarmed youths... is the reality that has placed the Palestinian cause properly in the hearts and minds of millions of people outside the Arab world."

He stressed that lending international and Arab support to the intifada was "a sacred duty" toward the just cause. "They deserve more," Sheikh Saad said, referring to the Arabs in the occupied areas who started the revolt against their occupiers 16 months ago.

Responding to a query, Sheikh Saad said there is an "organic link" between Lebanon's dilemma and the Middle East crisis, yet he emphasised "this should never mean that settlement of one must necessarily depend on a solution of the other."

The Crown Prince who was interviewed in Kuwait by Al Hawadeth chief editor, Milhem Karam, said Kuwait "supports and blesses efforts" being made for convening a regular, but postponed Arab summit conference in Saudi Arabia.

Asked to comment on the theory that the role of the Arab League was now in jeopardy because of the creation of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) along with the already existing Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Sheikh Saad said: "On the contrary. The creation of regional Arab unions would strengthen it (the league) and increase its effectiveness."

He added that it would be easier to reach understanding when the dialogue is among three bodies instead of 22 states, each talking differently.

Sheikh Saad replied affirmatively when asked if, during his visit to Washington last July, he felt that President Bush, then vice-president, had genuine desire to help in bringing about durable peace in the Middle East.

On his visit earlier this year to Baghdad and talks on border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq, the Crown Prince said the Iraqi side showed "sincere understanding" of Kuwait's position on the issue and demonstrated "fraternal response" to Kuwait's keen interest in settling the question.

Commenting on reports that Kuwait has been gradually replacing foreign labourers with Arabs, Sheikh Saad said it is the policy that employment priority goes first to Kuwaitis, then to Arabs, while workers from friendly countries come third.

ARAB TIMES EXCLUSIVE

Mubarak sees Iranian danger

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

THE Arab world must realise the extent of the danger posed by Iran in sending its soldiers to Lebanon, and urgent steps should be taken to put a stop to the influx of Iranian soldiers into Lebanon, if the Arab nation is not to suffer in the very near future, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt told the Arab Times in a wide ranging exclusive interview.

Speaking on his recent visit to the United States, Mubarak said that he saw a solution to the Lebanese crisis in the coming Arab summit.

"All non-Lebanese forces should withdraw from Lebanon. This has been endorsed by the international body," he added. "If this solution goes ahead, the Middle East conflict as a whole will head towards a speedy solution."

"However, these efforts need international pressure because of the Israeli presence."

This pressure should come from the big powers — specifically from the European countries, Mubarak advocated and added that France is currently playing a good role in solving the Lebanese crisis.



Mubarak

Mubarak also said that he got a distinct impression that there is an agreed principle for the necessity of ending Israeli occupation of Arab land to be based on trading of territories for peace.

He said: "In my opinion, this principle will not be rejected by the US." However, he expressed reservations that the final solution will be delayed due to the polls suggested by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

He added: "I have made it obviously clear to the Americans that I am quite prepared to visit Shamir at any time if such a meeting would contribute towards solving the Palestinian issue."

"I wish the Arab League committee on Lebanon every success in their undertaking," the President said.

Affirming that King Hassan of Morocco had called for the convening of an Arab summit on May 20, Mubarak said the meeting should be preceded by a series of bilateral "get-togethers" to smooth over existing problems on the Arab arena — whether these be the Palestinian issue or the Lebanese crisis. A unified stand and pragmatic solutions should be the result, he said.

Commenting on the recent change in the portfolio of the Egyptian minister of defence, Mubarak said that "this required an in-depth study, coupled with total secrecy."

"Such decisions are not to be debated to achieve public security and frankly, only I was privy to the change," he said.

Subsequent to the change in the portfolio there were utterly unfounded rumours of a military coup in Egypt. The Egyptian Army is well known for its discipline and loyalty to the country. Anyone desiring to stage a coup should have valid reasons.

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Sabotage not ruled out, train toll rises to 67

NEW DELHI, April 19, (Agencies)—At least 67 people were killed when a Delhi-bound express train jumped the tracks and crumpled carriages, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today.

The government announced an official inquiry into yesterday's crash 525 km (330 miles) south of the Indian capital. Rail Minister Madhavrao Scindia told reporters at the crash site that the cause of the mishap was not yet known but said nothing could be ruled out, including sabotage.

"A track over a distance of six hundred metres had been damaged and some of the keys fixing the rails were found out of place," Scindia said. "But analysis and inquiry into the cause of the accident will have to wait as we are busy with relief measures."

PTI said 137 people were injured, many of them seriously, and that the toll could rise further.

Other officials reported about 260 people were injured in the crash, and that most were being treated in two hospitals near the crash site.

Twelve of the 20 carriages of the Karnataka Express, travelling from the southern city of Bangalore were badly damaged.

PTI said so far only eight of the bodies had been identified. Special relief trains rolled into the capital early today with survivors of the crash along a remote stretch of track near Lalitpur.

Press Trust of India, quoting survivors who were brought to New Delhi today, said the cars overturned when the speeding train braked sharply near a bridge.

Advisers helping Afghan rebels

Saudis deny Soviet claim

WASHINGTON, April 19, (Agencies)—A Soviet official said yesterday Saudi advisers have been helping Afghan mujahideen in their battle to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government, violating the spirit of Geneva peace accords.

But Saudi Arabia yesterday denied the claim. Saudi Ambassador to India Sheikh Faoud Sadik Mufti said that no Saudi military adviser or defence personnel was killed in fighting between the rebels and government troops in Jalalabad and Khost.

Oleg Derkovsky, a counsellor at the Soviet embassy in Washington and in charge of Afghan affairs, also said Soviet military supplies to the Afghan government would continue as long as the US continued supplying the mujahideen rebels.

Crash in Manila

Kuwaiti pilot dies in crash

MANILA, April 19, (AP)—A small private plane crashed soon after takeoff today from Manila airport, killing three Filipinos and a Kuwaiti student pilot, officials said.

A spokeswoman for Airlink Aviation, owners of the Cessna 310, said the plane crashed about 250 metres (300 yards) from the runway and all four aboard were killed.

The rescue co-ordinating centre identified the Kuwaiti victim as Aiman Musa but said he was not believed to have been at the controls.

The plane was en route to Palawan island 320 kilometres (200 miles) southwest of Manila but failed to gain altitude and crashed into a rice field, officials said.

Don't expect too much from Geneva talks, says UN chief

GENEVA, April 19, (UPI)—UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar warned today against expecting too much from a new round at the badly stalled peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

The latest round is the fourth since talks began last Aug 25 and opens tomorrow with Perez de Cuellar acting as intermediary between Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers Ali Akbar Velayati and Tariq Aziz.

The UN chief executive said on arrival at Geneva airport that the "main thing is to maintain the framework" of negotiations with the two sides in the same room — although they refuse to address each other directly.

That Iran and Iraq agreed to the new round "shows their interest" in getting a settlement, he told reporters.

"But we should not raise our expectations too high," Perez de Cuellar warned.

Velayati on leaving Tehran said Iran still insisted that troop withdrawal preceded the exchange of all prisoners which is the second issue on the agenda.

In Baghdad, Tariq Aziz warned yesterday that the talks with Iran may collapse if the Iranians continue to reject convening face-to-face meetings to settle differences.

■ Iraq has eight giant excavators working night and day to deepen channels linking the strategic Shatt Al Arab waterway to the Gulf. Transport Minister Mohammed Hamza was quoted today in the newspaper Al Thawra as saying teams had reached a depth of more than eight metres but they needed to dig over three metres deeper to enable tankers to use the channels.

■ The United States has withdrawn the last two of its four AWACS radar-surveillance planes from Saudi Arabia thanks to the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, the Defence Department said.

Earlier, however, Baker expressed doubt that even an Arab League ceasefire initiative would succeed.

"I don't know what else frankly we could do" beyond recent repeated statements condemning the fighting between Christian and Muslim militias and endorsing ceasefire calls, including that advanced by the Arab League, he said.

BERN, April 19, (UPI)—After his first night in a Swiss prison, Saudi Arabian financier Adnan Khashoggi had lawyers working today on preparing his position on a pending US extradition demand.

Khashoggi, 53, was arrested by Swiss police yesterday morning as he was breakfasting with his daughter Nabila in his suite at the luxury hotel Schweizerhof.

Switzerland did not know he was in the country, let alone in the capital of Bern although he had been there several times before for medical treatment. Justice Ministry officials said the US embassy

Off-duty soldier shot dead Jordan food riots intensify

AMMAN, April 19, (Agencies)—The government clamped a curfew today on two towns in southern Jordan on the second day of violence sparked by price hikes, and Crown Prince Hassan said the unrest spread to the capital Amman and another town.

An off-duty soldier, Ahmed Hussein Miteib Al Saudi, 21, was shot dead during riots in Ma'an.

Hassan said at a news conference that it was premature to blame any specific group for the riots yesterday in Ma'an and Tafleh, 150 miles and 77 miles south of Amman, which erupted over increases in the price of fuel, cigarettes, beverages and utilities.

"I went to Ma'an yesterday, and after my arrival, I got into a police Land Rover and drove to the city centre," the Crown Prince said. "The car was pelted with stones, but when they realised the prince was in the car, they apologized," he said. He was not

injured.

Hassan, the brother of King Hussein and heir to the Jordanian throne, deplored the violence, which he said left six policemen and 12 demonstrators injured. He called for "constructive dialogue" to end the unrest.

The Crown Prince said there was "something fishy" above claims the protesters were motivated by economic problems alone.

"The ground is fertile for extremist exploitation," he said. The Crown Prince said it was too early to say who was responsible for the rioting. But he said "some of the bearded gentlemen" — an apparent reference to Muslim fundamentalists — were "very influential over the groups in the street."

Witnesses and hospital sources said at least 25 people, including an undisclosed number of police officers, were injured in yesterday's violence in Ma'an and Tafleh.

US can do little in Lebanon: Baker

League meeting postponed

WASHINGTON, April 19, (Agencies)—President Bush has called for a ceasefire in Lebanon, but Secretary of State James Baker rejected suggestions that the United States become more actively involved in Lebanese peace efforts.

"The President calls for all internal parties and Syria to cease shelling and to step back from confrontation," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a statement.

The President strongly supports efforts currently underway, such as the one by the Arab League to bring about a ceasefire and an end to the violence, Fitzwater said.

Earlier, however, Baker expressed doubt that even an Arab League ceasefire initiative would succeed.

"I don't know what else frankly we could do" beyond recent repeated statements condemning the fighting between Christian and Muslim militias and endorsing ceasefire calls, including that advanced by the Arab League, he said.

PLO holds 'direct' talks with Israel

League meeting postponed

TUNIS, April 19, (Agencies)—PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday that the United States is acting as an intermediary in "direct negotiations" between the PLO and Israel.

"As President of the Palestinian state and of the executive committee of the PLO, I officially affirm the existence of this direct dialogue with Israel," Arafat told a colloquium in the Tunisian capital. "The talks with the Israelis are going on through the US-Palestinian dialogue."

Arafat said during the second round of US-PLO talks in March, the US delegation told the PLO about the peace proposal that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir presented the following month in Washington.

The UN General Assembly, in a surprise move yesterday, agree to reopen debate on what is known here as "the question of Palestine."

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday he will meet with Arafat in Geneva tomorrow.

In London, an Arabic newspaper reported today that Damascus has welcomed Algerian efforts to end Syria's rift with the PLO.

The Bush administration hoped today to win the support of Jordan's King Hussein for the low-profile Middle East peace process launched by Secretary of State James Baker.

Amnesty International called yesterday for an independent inquiry into the use of force by Israeli soldiers against Palestinians, which it said may have been condoned or encouraged by the Israeli government.

Khashoggi faces US extradition demand

BERN, April 19, (UPI)—After his first night in a Swiss prison, Saudi Arabian financier Adnan Khashoggi had lawyers working today on preparing his position on a pending US extradition demand.

Khashoggi, 53, was arrested by Swiss police yesterday morning as he was breakfasting with his daughter Nabila in his suite at the luxury hotel Schweizerhof.

Switzerland did not know he was in the country, let alone in the capital of Bern although he had been there several times before for medical treatment. Justice Ministry officials said the US embassy

told the ministry that Khashoggi was at Schweizerhof.

"Now we are waiting for the formal extradition request to arrive which American authorities have said will be sent as quickly as possible," Justice Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler said.

At the same time, Kistler said, Khashoggi has the right to appeal directly to the Swiss Supreme Court within 10 days to order his release, or wait to fight extradition once those proceedings.

"So far we have not heard what action he and his lawyers will take," Kistler said.

Overthrow Roh, angry students demand

SEOUL, April 19, (AP)—Thousands of students demanding the overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo battled riot police today in at least six cities and protesters hurled firebombs at a US military base in Seoul.

The protests appeared to be the most serious in recent months. Riot police firing tear-gas battled students in campus and street clashes in Seoul, Kwangju,

Chunju, Chongju, Pusan and Taejeon to mark the anniversary of the April 19, 1960, student revolt that toppled the Syngman Rhee government. Other students staged peaceful campus protests.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, said about 37,000 students joined in protests at 112 colleges nationwide, but did not say how many were violent. Police said they had no overall figures on the protests.

Rajshahi University closed down

1 killed in student clash

DHAKA, April 19, (AP): Muslim fundamentalists and secular students battled each other with homemade guns and bombs at a northern university yesterday leaving one student dead and 50 injured, police said.

The fighting at Rajshahi University continued for three hours before police moved in with tear gas. The university has been shut down indefinitely and students were asked to vacate hostels.

Police contacted by telephone in Rajshahi said the trouble started when a member of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir student started arguing with a student belonging to the secular Students Action Committee over a pamphlet criticising fundamentalists.

The argument turned into a fistfight and more than 500 students eventually entered the fray, the

police said.

They said the students exploded homemade bombs, hurled stones and fired pistols.

The dead man was identified as Shafiqul Islam, a 23-year-old mathematics student, and a member of the Shibir. Three other students were reported in critical conditions with bullet wounds, police added.

The Shibir is affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami, a fundamentalist political party. The Students Action Committee is an umbrella group for 14 organisations affiliated with the Awami League and other parties opposed to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party.

Police said they fired about 50 tear gas shells. They said all the casualties were inflicted by the rioters and none by police.

Bonn sees no link with 'Pan Am'

Blast an unrelated incident

FRANKFURT, April 19, (AP): Despite apparent similarities between a bomb that killed a federal policeman and the one that blew up Pan Am flight 103, West German authorities said yesterday they were treating the blasts as unrelated incidents.

A 35-year-old federal police officer was killed and another officer was critically injured on Monday when they tried to disarm a bomb seized in the probe of two suspected Palestinian terrorists arrested in West Germany in October.

The Bundeskriminalamt, the federal police headquarters in Wiesbaden, said in a statement yesterday that the bomb that exploded a day earlier was one of two devices discovered at the end of last week "in connection with the investigation against Palestinian terrorists."

Two alleged agents of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) were arrested in October.

British investigators probing the Pan Am bombing that occurred over Lockerbie, Scotland, four days before Christmas have said that the plane was blown out of the sky by plastic explosives hidden in a radio.

Sri Lankan truce ends, 233 rebels surrender

COLOMBO, April 19, (Agencies): A weeklong ceasefire declared by the Sri Lankan government ended today at 0600 hours local time (0030 GMT) with military officials claiming over 100 people were killed during the period while 233 extremists surrendered.

Foreign and Deputy Minister for Defence, Ranjan Wijeratne early today said, the Lankan security forces have begun "intensive operations to nab gunmen" in the south of the country, the hotbed of Sinhalese militancy. "Anybody in possession with unauthorised weapon would be severely dealt with," Wijeratne said.

The ceasefire was declared as part of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's peace package to both Tamil separatist rebels and Sinhalese rebels of the JVP, the Sinhalese acronym for People's Liberation Front.

The President had promised amnesty, vocational training and jobs for those who surrender at the reception centres the government opened during the ceasefire.

The Tamil Tigers immediately rejected the ceasefire saying it would be a meaningless exercise as long as the 50,000 Indian troops are stationed in the north and east of Sri Lanka. India sent its troops to implement a peace pact signed in 1987 to end the minority Tamil rebellion in the two provinces.

Hours after the ceasefire was declared last Wednesday, the Tigers blew up an Indian Army truck using landmines in the Tamil dominated north killing seven soldiers. In the following three days, Tamil rebels were blamed for killing 57 civilians and 21 Lankan soldiers in two car bomb attacks and an ambush in north and eastern provinces.

The military officials in Colombo said, 233 Sinhalese extremists surrendered during the ceasefire period.



A bright idea

Restaurateur Co Dijkstra replaces a defective light on the exterior decorations of his DC-8 aircraft restaurant near Puresmeren, north Holland. A bright idea several years ago prompted Dijkstra to purchase the former Air Afrique jet in Luxembourg, have it shipped in pieces by boat to its present location, and reconstructed as a restaurant. (Reuter wirephoto)

India evacuates villages for first missile test

8 die in communal riots

BALASORE, India, April 19, (Reuters): India has begun evacuating 11,000 people from seaside villages in the eastern state of Orissa ahead of Thursday's first test of its long range Agni missile.

Balasore's top civilian official, Pitabas Patnaik, told Reuters the villagers would be moved into temporary shelters from a danger zone with a 3.5 km (two mile) radius around the launch pad.

About 5,000 people protested at government offices on Monday against the launching of the Agni missile, which has a range of 1,600 km (960 miles) and can carry a one-tonne payload.

Samarendra Kundu, a junior minister of external affairs who is leading the anti-missile movement in Orissa, appealed to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to halt the missile programme before it set off a regional arms race.

The four billion rupee (\$265 million) Agni project is part of a wider missile programme that includes efforts to conduct space launches jointly with other nations.

The Balasore site was considered ideal because the missiles would never cross over land and the Bay of Bengal has less traffic than the Arabian Sea or the Indian Ocean, officials said.

In a separate incident, eight people were killed and at least 39 injured in clashes between Hindus and Muslims in northern India, police said yesterday.

Police Commissioner D. S. Mukhopadaya said Sunday's clash in Bihar state between Hindus and Muslims was triggered by a dispute over a religious procession.

Police arrested about 250 people and recovered 23 bombs, 10 petrol bombs and a number of swords and spears.

Chinese rally

Students protest defying warnings

BEIJING, April 19, (Reuters): Crowds of Chinese students defied official warnings today and staged a third day of pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Three thousand students at Fudan University in Shanghai, China's biggest city, also held a peaceful campus rally, voicing demands for democratic rights.

There were unconfirmed accounts from official sources of student unrest in other major cities.

Students who took part in this week's protests — the biggest spontaneous demonstrations in Beijing since 1976 — said they had no organisation and were not sure how the escalating confrontation with authorities would be resolved.

Many came simply to mourn the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang by bearing wreaths and a giant portrait to the centre of Beijing's vast square, but others used the occasion to press for democratic reforms.

Students from Peking University and other colleges chanted "Oppose dictatorship" and "Long live democracy."

A placard with the words "Overthrow dictatorship" was seen on the People's Heroes Monument in the centre of the square.

More than 3,000 students marched peacefully past party and government headquarters where crowds had demonstrated for five hours early today before being dispersed by police.

State radio and the official New China News Agency announced that some people wanted to use Hu's death last Saturday "to create and incite trouble."

The demonstration outside the Zhongnanhai compound, where some of China's leaders live and work, was illegal, the official statement said.

"We are not afraid of the authorities. This is a patriotic duty," said one undergraduate in reply.

The Communist Party announced that a memorial service for Hu would be held on April 22 in the Great Hall of the People which runs along the western edge of Tiananmen Square.

Students said they expected universities to try to stage a rival ceremony in the square. They realised security forces would probably seal off the whole area.

Hu, a liberal reformist, was forced to resign as party leader by hardliners who accused him of betraying communism for Western political ideas after nationwide student demonstrations calling for democracy and freedom.

Indian judge for World Court

UNITED NATIONS, April 19, (AP): The Security Council and General Assembly yesterday chose Ramalingam Swarup, Patnaik of India to serve as a justice on the World Court.

Patnaik's term will last until Feb 5, 1997, to fill the vacancy on the 15-member court caused by the death of judge Nagendra Singh of India in December.

Atwood recommended

WASHINGTON, April 19, (AP): The Senate Armed Services Committee voted unanimously yesterday to recommend that the Senate confirm President George Bush's choice of General Motors executive Donald Atwood to become deputy defence secretary.

By 20-0, the committee approved Bush's nomination of the automaker's vice chairman to take over the No. 2 civilian post at the Pentagon.

Woman, children slain

MONTGOMERY, Alabama, April 19, (AP): A woman and three children were found slain in a home at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac after her husband turned back efforts by relatives to see her for two days, police and neighbours said.

The husband, 36-year-old Lee Artis Carter, was taken into custody and transported to a hospital for cuts on his wrist caused by a razor blade, firemedics chief T.L. Bryant said.

80-year-old Mafia boss dies

BAGHERIA, Sicily, April 19, (Reuters): An 80-year-old suspected Mafia boss died in a hail of bullets yesterday in a chaotic Sicilian gangland killing, police said.

Antonio Mico was gunned down in his car on a narrow road in the Mafia stronghold of Bagheria, near Palermo. Police said they believed he was shot by two killers on a motorcycle.

Pipe bomb maims girl

INDIANAPOLIS, April 19, (AP): Police were looking yesterday for two men who left a department store moments after a pipe bomb hidden in a toothpaste container maimed a 5-year-old girl.

The bomb apparently exploded in Erin Bower's hand after she took the pump-type container from a shelf at a K Mart Store Monday night, investigators said.

The explosion blew off four fingers and half her left palm and injured an eye and her abdomen, officials said. Methodist Hospital spokesman David Richards said her doctor is "cautiously optimistic of partial vision in that eye."

Drinking preceded slaying

GLEN ELLEN, California, April 19, (AP): A frenzied, cocaine-fueled night of drinking and dancing by a winery worker preceded the slaying of a woman who left six family members and a co-worker dead, friends said yesterday.

"He party, party, party all the time — run around all night," one of Salcido's friends said in an interview with the San Francisco Examiner, recalling Ramon Salcido's extended binge before Friday's killing. "He drank everything — beer, wine, tequila."

Combating the AIDS virus

WASHINGTON, April 19, (Reuters): Researchers from the National Cancer Institute said yesterday they had developed a first new method for identifying experimental drugs that could be effective in combating the AIDS virus.

The new screening method, intended to help researchers identify compounds that merit further testing as an AIDS therapy, is fast, simple and safe enough for use in a large-scale screening programme, the scientists reported.

Legislation approved

WASHINGTON, April 19, (UPI): A House of Representatives Committee yesterday approved legislation that would prohibit the US government from excluding immigrants based solely on their political beliefs or associations with organisations such as the Communist Party.

If approved by Congress, the measure would rewrite immigration exclusion and deportation laws dating back to the strong anti-communist sentiment of the 1950s, under which any past connection to communism could bar a foreign national from entering the United States.

Hoffman commits suicide

DOYLESTOWN, Pennsylvania, April 19, (AP): Peace and environmental activist Abbie Hoffman committed suicide with a "massive overdose" of the drug phenobarbital, the coroner said yesterday.

"The death was from the combined effects of phenobarbital and alcohol," coroner Dr Thomas Rosko said at a news conference. Hoffman, who held fast to his anti-establishment convictions and made his points with searing humour, was found dead April 12 at his home in New Hope. He was 52.

DAP leader released

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19, (Reuters): Malaysian authorities today released Lim Kit Siang, the leader of the main opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP), nearly 18 months after he was detained without trial.

Lim and his son Lim Guan Eng, both members of parliament, were released from Kamunting detention centre in the northern state of Perak, a DAP spokesman said.

The father and son were among more than 100 people arrested in an October 1987 crackdown the government said was aimed at quelling racial tension. Party officials said they were the last of those detained in the crackdown to be released.

Troops used poison gas against demonstrators in Tbilisi: doctor

MOSCOW, April 19, (AP): Authorities lifted a curfew yesterday in the Georgian capital and civilians replaced departing troops by patrolling the streets of Tbilisi, trying to maintain order in the aftermath of fatal clashes, the Tass news agency said.

Meanwhile, a doctor who treated victims of the April 9 violence that killed at least 19 people said troops used poison gas when they dispersed pro-

independence demonstrators in front of the Central Government building.

The doctor made his comments during a meeting on Friday of the Georgian Academy of Sciences. A videotape of the session was shown to journalists last night in Moscow.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said yesterday: "Tanks and armoured personnel carriers have vanished from city streets,

and armed patrols are no longer in sight. They have been replaced by volunteers acting in close contact with the police force."

Tass said the midnight-to-5 am curfew was lifted yesterday morning as the troop withdrawal started.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a former first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party, left for Moscow, after spending nine days in

Tbilisi trying to restore calm, Soviet television reported.

The official Soviet newspaper Izvestia said an estimated 4,000 volunteers and 750 policemen started patrols in the city, taking over from the departing troops.

"They took upon themselves the responsibility for securing order in the city," Izvestia said. Troops and tanks moved into Tbilisi on April 7, after three days

of pro-independence rallies. On April 9, soldiers moved to break up the rallies, leading to the deadly clashes.

At the Academy of Sciences meeting on Friday, Shevardnadze said he had promised nationalist leaders, workers and factory bosses that Soviet troops would be withdrawn from the capital if they kept the city calm and workers showed up at their jobs on Monday morning.

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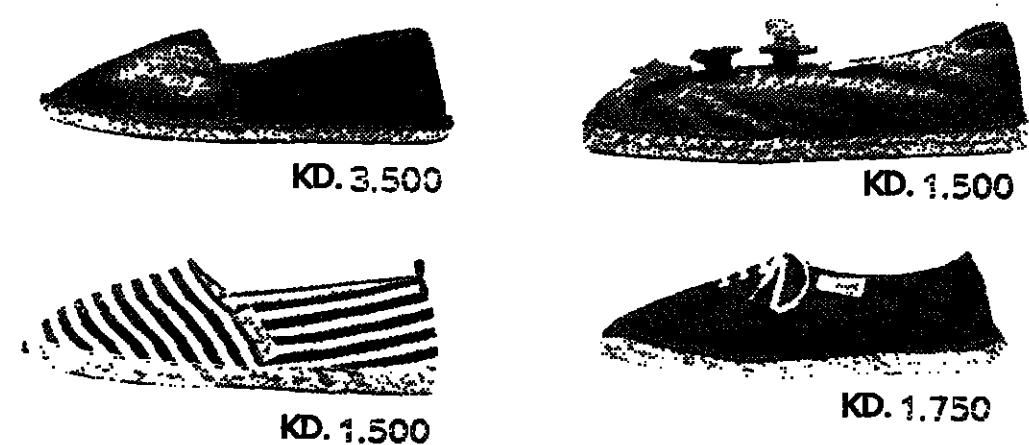
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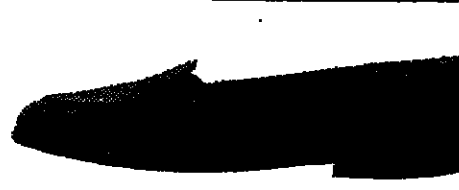


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6:00 PM - 1:00 PM

6:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Trial moves one step closer to conclusion

His defence is largely that he was following orders from White House superiors, who had brought him into the Iran-Contra affair, telling him not to tell anyone about his activities and then left him stranded as a scapegoat.

"North and McFarlane were following Adolf Hitler's old strategy, which is the victor will never be asked if he told the

President? He's the one who gave the authority for shipping missiles, who signed the finding (authorising the shipment). Why ask Ollie North, why not ask the President?"

Lucille heart op

The woman known as Hollywood's favourite redhead was driven by her second husband, Gary Morton, to the hospital yesterday after she complained of crippling chest pains.

Felix Vartanian, one of four visiting Soviet doctors, said the Soviet treatment focusses more on training doctors to treat patients, while US doctors concentrate on research.

Scaramuzzi said that on two occasions his team measured high emissions of neutrons after

Los Alamos thus far has been unable to confirm the results that Pons and Fleischmann, chemists at

at the Santa Elena ranch 20 miles (32 kms) west of Matamoros on March 11, and both bodies found at a nearby co-operative farm Thursday, were those of drug smugglers.

Wright received a standing ovation at the end of his speech to his fellow Democrats, who form an opposition to the Republican administration of President George Bush,

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, April 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to the President of Zimbabwe on the occasion of his country's national day.

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, April 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir received yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.

Support for farmers

THE director of the agricultural plots and services department at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Yaseen Al Dosari has said that the authority allocated KD3 million, for the purpose of supporting farmers registered with it.

He told a local newspaper that the money had actually been transferred to the Credit and Savings Bank for disbursing among qualified farmers according to the area of their farmland. Rosari added that the authority had of late finished considering a total of 330 applications submitted by farmers in Abdali and Wafra, and that plots had been allocated and turned over to qualified farmers in the areas designated in their application.

He said the authority had co-ordinated with the relevant personnel at Kuwait Municipality for the purpose of allocating plots for farmers within the poultry and animal resources domains in both Wafra and Abdali in order to further expand this sector.

Traffic detour

THE traffic route along Sixth Ring Road between Safar Road and King Faisal Bin Abdulaziz Street will be detoured as of Friday for the execution of works on the Sixth Ring Road project, according to an official source at Kuwait's Traffic Department.

The source added that for the motorists bound for Jahra from Messilah, their route will remain unchanged while for motorists coming to Messilah from Jahra the route will be detoured from the point opposite the drive-in cinema up to the steel arch opposite the Hunting and Equestrian Club.

He added that the new routes will be provided with the necessary diversions and U turns, and that the necessary safety had been considered in addition to the street lanes and signals.

The new detours will last for 18 to 24 months, the anticipated period for implementing the project.

Practical education

THE Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education Abdul Rahman Al Khodari has stressed the importance attached by the ministry for practical studies through the continued development of practical study programmes.

He said this matter was discussed at a recent meeting held under the chairmanship of the Minister Anwar Al Nouri and attended by the assistant undersecretaries, where heavy emphasis was laid on the need to further accord attention to the development of practical studies programmes, and to treat this subject as a main course in the curriculum.

Abduction case

KUWAIT'S General Prosecution is currently interrogating two men alleged to have abducted and raped an underage girl.

Sources said that one of the accused is blind. The other accused, to abduct the girl, informed the victim that her mother had fainted in the park and needed her immediately.

The girl believing the story got into the accused's car. The defendant, however, drove her to a secluded building where the accused who is blind was waiting.

Teenage gangs menacing neighbourhoods

Vandalism has reached alarming proportions

TEENAGE gangs are beginning to make their presence felt at some areas in Kuwait, according to various sources.

At Al Mkhizim Diwaniya in Mishrif, a local daily interviewed a number of patrons who confirmed that several untoward incidents involving groups of teenagers had taken place in the area.

One of the patrons, Mohammed Saqr said that a number of teenagers meet at Al

Bishr Mosque in Mishrif armed with pocket knives, broken bottles, chains and sticks.

Other patrons said that the upswing in wanton destruction and vandalism of state properties and utilities should be curbed as it has reached alarming proportions.

One of the Diwaniya visitors said that the family role in addition to the role played by the information media and other

concerned official authorities should be enhanced which will eventually positively contribute towards creating a positive outlook in teenagers.

Co-ordination must be established between family and the information media to introduce more productive programmes on the TV which is an ideal source of leisure viewing by teenagers.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has

prepared a study on students' problems at areas characterised with special social atmosphere. The study proposed the necessity of establishing youth centres at these areas. The Ministry of Education could play a more effective role by establishing an educational informative office specialising in issues connected with students' affairs and interests, a group of patrons said.



Mangled beyond recognition

The driver of this car was seriously injured as he slammed his car into the dividing fence on the Fourth Ring Road. The car, as the picture shows was cut into half and was destroyed beyond repair.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Bahraini doctor calls for cancer awareness campaign

A LEADING Bahraini doctor has called for a campaign to educate the public on the factors and causes leading to various forms of cancer, following the establishment of the Bahrain Cancer Society (BCS) two weeks ago.

In an interview with the Arab Times, Dr. Jafar Al Bareeq, Editor-in-Chief of the Bahrain Medical Bulletin, warned about the dangers of contracting cancer and highlighted preventive measures that should be applied to reduce the risk of infection of this fatal disease.

According to Dr. Bareeq, the Bahrain Cancer Society was formed with the goals and objectives in line with other similar organisations in the world such as the American Cancer Society and those in Europe, the Arab world including neighbouring Gulf states like Kuwait and UAE.

He said the BCS was launched as an "amalgam" organisation to serve as a scientific as well as a social entity.

"Medical services in Bahrain have improved considerably over the past twenty-five years. Thanks to the relentless efforts by the Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa and the Minister of Health, Jawad Al Ayyed, the country can boast of medical services, facilities and personnel as good as any developing country in the world. A cancer society can ideally be formed under such a progressive medical climate, when the community can have easy access to the best treatment available," explained Dr. Bareeq.

Dr. Bareeq, who is also a leading ear, nose and throat specialist in the island, said it is of utmost importance and concern for the need to provide extensive information through the local media about the dangers of cancer for the general welfare of the population.

"The public must be told that cancer, which is yet incurable, is the number one killer in the world. It is surprising that there are still a lot of people out there who are ignorant about cancer and its dangers," he added.

Dr. Bareeq, listed the objectives of BCS as follows: a) to collect data statistics on cancer and causes of death; b) to encourage research on cancer; c) to facilitate the study of factors causing cancer; d) to encourage the training of a team to look after cancer patients at home; e) to initiate a programme to train medical personnel in treating various forms of cancer; f) to establish a programme for public information about cancer; g) to encourage a programme which will look after cancer cases socially and finally, to encourage co-operation and communication of official and non-official bodies of cancer in both Bahrain and overseas.

According to Dr. Bareeq the common forms of cancer prevalent in Bahrain comprise of lung, colon, breast and larynx cases. He attributed the causes of such cancer growth to a combination of affluent lifestyle, unbalanced diet and factors related to the environment as a result of industrialisation.

"People must adhere to a balanced diet by cutting down on foodstuff constituting a high level of salt such as smoked meat and fish. Food with high salt intake have cancer promoting chemicals such as nitrate and carcinogens," warned Dr. Bareeq. He said Bahrain must be careful in not affecting the environment and emphasised the vital importance of preserving the ozone layer, the subject of much worldwide debate recently.

Evening shifts at schools disallowed

MINISTRY of Education Undersecretary, Abdurrahman Al Khodari has announced the ministry's refusal to allow private schools to apply the evening shift, unless the relevant areas were in dire need for such a shift which should then be devoted only to students of the intermediate and secondary stages.

Khodari added that apart from the above, schools should have all the required educational means.

In an interview with a local daily, Khodari was quoted as confirming the ministry's intention to support private education in order to play its role in the country's educational process.

He confirmed that private education was part and parcel of the country's general education system and that it contributed to achieving the country's educational objectives.

Subsidy

Headed that the ministry was extending the necessary subsidy to private schools in accordance with its desire to improve the position of such schools, and eventually to alleviate the financial burdens on parents.

Meanwhile, the director of Farwaniyah Educational Area, Mohammed Aba Al Khail, was quoted as describing the progress made by the educational field as significant, and that it has benefited the essential educational process.

In an interview with a local daily, the official clarified that educational and technical supervision under the educational areas system became direct and that the instructions given by the officials in these areas were being implemented promptly.

The official said that there were about 61,000 students in the Farwaniyah educational area, with 4,255 teachers and 80 schools.

Sentences passed on 4,431 cases in 1988

Dud cheque crimes highest

By Sayed Usman

THE Criminal Court issued sentences on 4,431 criminal cases during last year. The sentences included death, life imprisonment, simple imprisonment and fines. The cases of bad cheques reached 1,861, representing 42 per cent of the total criminal cases reviewed by the Criminal Court in 1988.

The sentences for bad cheques were as follows: 1,087 sentences of imprisonment for different periods, 80 sentences of fines, 659 sentences of refraining from pronouncing punishment, 29 acquittals, one pardon, and other sentences.

The sentences of fines, refrain from pronouncing punishment and acquittal are issued because defendants (debtors) pay the amounts of the bad cheques to the creditor plaintiffs. As it is clear that bad cheque cases are the biggest percentage, this phenomenon merits studying.

Assault

Assault cases came in second, reaching 597 last year (13 per cent of the total). The sentences for these cases included: 66 sentences of imprisonment, 115 sentences of fines, 63 refrained from pronouncing sentences, five sentences to juvenile delinquents at the delinquent welfare houses, and five other sentences against juvenile delinquents (taking different procedures against them), 38 acquittals and 244 sentences to accept pardon from the plaintiff.

According to statistics of the Justice Ministry, thefts came in third with 12.7 per cent of total criminal cases. The sentences in these cases included: 173 sentences of imprisonment for different periods, 23 sentences of fines, 37 refrained from pronouncing punishment, 73 sentences against juvenile delinquents to send them to the juvenile welfare houses, 163 other sentences against juveniles, 93 acquittals and three sentences to accept

pardon from the plaintiff.

Morality crimes reached 340 cases (7.6 per cent of total crimes). The sentences were as follows: one sentence of life imprisonment, 156 sentences of imprisonment for different periods, two sentences of fines 24 refrained from pronouncement, 26 sentences against juvenile delinquents and 129 acquittals. It is clear that morality cases are declining. Some of these cases were false claims and accusations submitted by plaintiffs, which accounts for the biggest number of acquittals.

Forgery

Cases of forgery and fraud jumped to 5th place during last year when they reached 335 (7.5 per cent). The Criminal Court issued the following sentences: 161 sentences of imprisonment for different periods, five sentences of fines, 93 sentences refrained and 70 acquittals, as well as some other sentences.

The Criminal Court reviewed and pronounced sentences on 150 cases of bootlegging and trading in liquor last year (3.3 per cent), coming in 6th place. 97 of these sentences were imprisonment for different periods, 18 sentences of fines and 32 acquittals.

Narcotics

The cases of trading in narcotics came in 7th, reaching 141 (3.1 per cent). The sentences included: 97 imprisonment sentences for different periods, 5 sentences of fines one sentence of refraining and 37 acquittals. The cases of taking narcotics and addiction were 116 (2.6 per cent). The court issued sentences on these cases as follows: 65 sentences of imprisonment, one sentence of fine, 20 sentences of refraining, one sentence against juvenile delinquents 29 acquittals.

There are some other indications showed by statistics of the ministry concerning various sorts of cases. The statistics showed a decline in cases of

damaging public properties (two cases only), decline of cases of attacking public employees during duty (9 cases), and decline of cases of misleading the authorities, cheating justice authority and impersonating an official employee (one case for each).

Illegal arms

The statistics showed that cases of possessing weapons and ammunition, without licence reached 75. The court pronounced sentences on these cases as follows: 14 imprisonments, 50 fines, 7 sentences of refraining, two against juvenile delinquents and two acquittals.

The court reviewed 72 cases of kidnapping during last year (1.6 per cent of total crimes). The court's sentences were as follows: 2 sentences of death, two sentences of life imprisonment, 26 sentences of imprisonment for different periods, 9 sentences of fines, 7 refraining and 26 acquittals.

The court reviewed 53 cases of entering houses for committing crimes. Most of these cases were related to defendants who paid night visits to maids at their employers' houses. The court issued 13 sentences of imprisonment, 13 fines, two refrainments, 14 acquittals and 11 sentences of asking for pardon.

The statistics reviewed 22 cases of intentional murder. The court issued five sentences of death, two life imprisonments, 12 imprisonments for different periods and two acquittals. The court also reviewed 17 cases of attempted murder. The sentences included: two life imprisonments, 4 sentences of imprisonment for different periods, two fines, three refraining and one sentence against a juvenile delinquent.

The court reviewed 12 cases of bribery, seven cases of fire accidents and 8 cases of taking liquor. The court reviewed one case against state security and 16 cases against the national economy.

Ships, films placed on Kuwaiti blacklist

KUWAIT, April 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's office of Arab Boycott on Israel today placed two cargo ships on the blacklist for dealing with the Zionist entity and imposed a ban on three movies which were manufactured by a sanctioned US film corporation.

A press release by the office identified the blacklisted ships as the Danish Karen Winther, owned by Roderick Erik Winther, and Barbudan Tatana of Partenreederei MS Akak Express.

The two vessels registered in Copenhagen and Hamburg respectively were to be barred from docking or getting refuelled and supplied at Kuwaiti sea ports.

The office also banned entry, display or circulation in Kuwait of the three films: For Whom the Bell Tolls, Murder on the Orient Express and Coming to America.

The three movies were produced by the already blacklisted US Paramount Pictures Corporation for dealing with Israel, the release said.

MEW planning committee meets

THE Minister of Electricity and Water Dr. Homoud Abdullah Al Rqobah yesterday presided over a meeting of the MEW's planning committee, which was attended by the undersecretary Abdullah Al Munaies and his assistants.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with a number of topical issues, the first of which was the recent national power failure, which hit the country last Thursday.

Follow up

A local daily quoted an official source at the ministry as saying that the committee in charge of following up the import of water supplies from Iraq for agricultural purposes would meet for the first time today, under the chairmanship of the MEW Water Department director, Saud Nasser to discuss developments in this area and the possibility of calling the French consultant at this stage in connection with project design and implementation.

Airport-taxi service discussed

THE Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazidi has invited proposals and recommendations from the General Department of Civil Aviation regarding the regulation of the taxi service operating at Kuwait International Airport, through the establishment of a special taxi-service operation company.

The minister requested the preparation of a feasibility study of the proposed company, which would involve the employment of private cars currently operating at the airport taxi-services, as well as those operating in the private sector, in co-operation with the relevant official authorities.

Mazidi said this service should employ cabs equipped with A/C units and communication system in order to give a good impression to all visitors arriving in Kuwait and to keep up to world standards.



African Exhibition

A small but attractive collection of African handicrafts, now on display at the Sultan Gallery, comes to Kuwait via Britain. The opulent ceremonial robes, and hand-woven pieces of cloth in vibrant colours come from the British collector Peter Adler. Unlike the jewellery on display they are the genuine examples of African workmanship.

The jewellery consisting of chunky necklaces and bracelets adorned with colourful beads is inviting but pricey.

The exhibition was opened by the Nigerian Ambassador's wife Amina Saleh (pictured above) on Tuesday.

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Poultry importers and local farmers compete

COMPETITION between owners of local poultry farms and importers of frozen chickens has been hectic, according to a local daily.

To canvass opinions, the daily undertook a poll of some individuals involved in the industry.

Mahmoud Naser, acting general manager at a local poultry company, said that local firms agreed to adopt awareness campaigns to enlighten citizens on the importance of fresh chickens as well as encouraging the purchase of national products.

Price rather than quality is the "bone of contention" he said, adding that though frozen chickens are cheaper, local products are 100 per cent fresh. One of the reasons for the difference in prices is due to imported chickens being subsidised at the countries of origin, he said.

Naser called on government officials to protect national produce and to adopt a policy of encouraging national output.

Salah Khorsheed, general manager at a poultry company, echoing the opinions of Naser called on authorities to impose a tax on all imported chickens to enhance the production of local firms.

He called for setting up a specific policy for the distribution of fodder. He said that the local fodder plant has not been functioning for the past six months, but that local firms are reluctant to import their requirements from abroad.

Khorsheed further called on the Co-operative Societies Union and local firms to set up a unified policy for marketing local chickens. He claimed that his company produces about 60,000 eggs daily and about 150,000 chickens every 45 days.

Increased demand for meat during Ramadan

Slaughterhouse staff interviewed

A LOCAL daily toured the slaughterhouses in Kuwait and interviewed a number of working staff to discuss the increased work pressure that accompanies the month of Ramadan and the resulting effects on the services offered by these public facilities.

Ahmed Yousef Abdullah said that a good number of people return to the better, cleaner and safer services of the central slaughterhouses during the Holy Month of Ramadan, when banquets and public functions increase.

He said that sometimes this can create problems due to the large demand for services, which require clients to wait in line for their turns.

Hygienic

He added this because the slaughtering service at these facilities was more organised and hygienic conditions and standards better observed, which made clients satisfied with the service and reassured of the meat they took home with them.

Another worker, Moss Al Ansari, said that when such public facilities are privatised, this

encourages unscrupulous owners and staff to manipulate prices and cheat for lack of adequate controls from Kuwait Municipality or any other government agency with supervisory authority.

Naser Al Fadli told his interviewer that the shortage in staff at these facilities was the primary reason behind the growing crowds, which make some clients turn to private butcher shops, and that these slaughterhouses must encourage people to seek their services and not turn away in anger.

Confusion

He pointed out that one of the problems encountered during this season was the mixing up of butchered meat, which is the result of overcrowding, and that this often ends up in the dissatisfaction of clients who walk away with each other's butchered meat.

He added that in certain cases, clients do not recognise the difference between theirs and another's meat until they had actually cooked and tasted it.

Talal Al Shimmari said that hired domestic slaughtering service had bad effects, par-

ticularly health-wise, compared to the services offered by the slaughterhouses, the quickness of job and the hygienic packages of the butchered meat.

Abdul Latif Rashed said that the hygienic conditions in certain slaughterhouses were bad, and that the slaughtering halls were often seen filled with blood, offal and waste matter, and that supervisors to control the slaughtering services were scarcely found there.

Supervision

He pointed out that certain slaughterhouses take advantage of the season to hike the charge for their services, and that others neglected the organised service operation regulations.

Rashed added that some workers at times intentionally refuse to offer clients proper services if not given the tip they ask for.

He stressed the need to regulate the operation of these slaughterhouses and to assign supervisors to oversee the performance of staff, and to ensure that health conditions and standards are observed and prices kept under control.

MIDEAST

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 20-21, 1989

Danish bank robbers financed PFLP

COPENHAGEN, April 19. (UPI) A group of Danish bank robbers supplied most of their \$14 million loot to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in order to help finance the group's activities, Danish police said yesterday.

"We are sure that these people have supplied the PFLP with the funds," said chief detective Kurt Olsen who is leading the investigation.

Olsen said five men, including

the gang's Jordanian-born leader, had been remanded in custody Monday by Copenhagen district court. All were being held in isolation while police concluded their investigation.

"We feel our evidence against them is good," said Olsen who refused to disclose further details from the investigation or the remand proceedings which took place Monday behind closed doors.

Olsen said the men were charged on suspicion of at least four armed bank robberies and a kidnapping, all in the greater Copenhagen area from 1980 to 1985. The robberies had netted the group \$14 million.

On one occasion the group is alleged to have kidnapped a bank director, his wife and grandchild and held them in a failed \$4 million hostage case.

The family was quickly released unharmed when the

bank and authorities refused to pay any ransom.

All of the robberies had been filed by police as unsolved, but police said new information came to light this year during investigations into an unrelated armed robbery at Copenhagen General Post Office in 1988 in which one police officer was killed.

A task force of detectives and police intelligence antisubver-

sion agents had been set up to find any similarities between hitherto unsolved bank robberies and had been put on the trail of the group.

Olsen said that in the closed door court hearings Monday the group had been remanded in custody on bank robbery charges, but that judge Niels Erik Jensen had not found enough evidence to support added charges under paragraph 116 of the Danish Penal Code.

Speaker wants post of premier abolished

Rafsanjani tipped to win election

NICOSIA, April 19. (Reuters) Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, tipped to win Iran's August presidential elections, wants the post of prime minister abolished, an Iranian newspaper said.

The Tehran Times said yesterday Rafsanjani was one of the signatories of a proposal to eliminate the premiership in favour of presidential deputies.

"A proposal was recently set forth asking for the elimination of the position of premiership replacing it by president's deputies," the Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the English-language daily as saying.

The newspaper said Rafsanjani was a signatory to the proposal which would greatly increase the power of the incoming president, but it did not say to whom it was addressed.

If the constitutional amendment is approved and Rafsanjani wins election as expected, his enhanced powers would make him the most influential figure in revolutionary Iran after supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Rafsanjani, Speaker of Parliament for nine years, has

said the 1979 constitution divides power among too many bodies, creating difficulties for centralised policy-making.

Nearly two-thirds of members of parliament and the Supreme Judicial Council asked Khomeini this week to appoint a committee to revise the executive and settle questions about the future leadership.

Khomeini, 86, has not responded to calls for constitutional changes which also deal with the selection of his successor as supreme leader following the withdrawal last month of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.

The Tehran Times, which is close to the Foreign Ministry, said Khomeini was likely to "entrust a group of high-ranking politico-religious personalities with this sensitive and significant responsibility."

Any amendment would have to be put to a referendum after Khomeini's approval.

Rafsanjani, 53, has been a key aide to Khomeini since the 1979 revolution and is reported to have been the person who convinced Khomeini to accept a

ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

He was appointed by Khomeini last June as acting commander of the armed forces — a capacity in which he presided at the Army Day parade in Tehran yesterday.

But his pragmatic views have recently been criticised by the Ayatollah.

In February Khomeini spoke out against Iran's tentative opening to the West, championed by Rafsanjani, and said he did not regret for one moment Iran's conduct in the Gulf war.

Rafsanjani said Iran should have tried to prevent the war's outbreak in 1980.

A month later Khomeini brushed aside concern about economic problems, saying Iranian people had chosen revolution and accepted the hardships which came with it.

His comments came after Rafsanjani had appealed for his intervention to tackle inflation and unemployment.

Rafsanjani has only said that he would probably have to stand in the presidential elections but it is generally expected that he will.

Big food convoy reaches Kabul

Significant victory

KABUL, April 19. (Reuters) A big convoy of vital Soviet arms and food supplies broke through a mujahedeen blockade and rumbled into Kabul yesterday in the biggest operation of its kind since Moscow's troops left Afghanistan two months ago.

Helicopter gunships flew overhead as columns of tanks, armoured cars, mounted multiple rocket launchers and food trucks reached the capital after running a gauntlet of Mujahedeen dug in on mountains dominating the Salang Highway.

Drivers said the convoy of up to 1,000 armoured vehicles and at least 500 trucks paced with rice, flour and wheat took 45 days to get from the Soviet border — normally, a three-day journey.

Their arrival was a significant victory for the Soviet-backed Kabul government which has fought a powerful mujahedeen alliance on its own since the last Soviet troops pulled out on February 15.

The new hardware will boost the morale and muscle of government forces battling rebel offensives in eastern and southern Afghan provinces bordering Pakistan.

The convoy was caught up in fierce battles with mujahedeen

determined to starve Kabul into surrender, and drivers said they saw dozens of trucks and armoured cars burning along the highway.

On several occasions, Afghan warplanes swooped in two chases off rebels blocking the highway.

Pakistan-based Afghan rebel groups yesterday condemned Islamabad for agreeing to allow the United Nations to set up monitoring posts on its border with Afghanistan.

In a rare attack on the chief rebel backer, a senior mujahedeen leader said the setting up of the UN presence would have "unfavourable consequences" and urged Pakistan to rescind its decision.

Pakistan told the UN Security Council last week that, in response to a request by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, it had agreed to a permanent UN presence in border areas including Chaman, Parachinar and Torkham.

The Soviet-backed Afghan government has been seeking the establishment of permanent posts manned by the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) to curb the movement of arms and other aid from Pakistan to the mujahedeen.



Wounded Lebanese

A wounded man is carried by two civil defence workers and a Lebanese policeman on Tuesday to a motor boat which ferried 70 Muslim casualties from the port of Sidon south of Beirut to a French hospital vessel, 5 km off the coast. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egyptian police arrest 1,000 extremists

CAIRO, April 19. (Reuters) Egyptian police have arrested about 1,000 alleged Muslim extremists in a nation-wide crackdown over the past 11 days, an official spokesman said yesterday.

Interior Ministry spokesman Behaeddin Ibrahim told Reuters the arrests followed a violent clash on April 7 between zealots and police in the oasis town of Fayoum southwest of Cairo.

It was not immediately known whether any charges had been filed against those arrested, but emergency laws in force since 1981 empower police to detain suspects indefinitely.

Among dozens of people arrested in Fayoum was Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind clergyman and a leader for many Muslim militants campaigning for the implementation of Islamic laws.

His arrest led to warnings from the outlawed militant Jihad group that it would take reprisal actions if any harm came to Abdel-Rahman while in detention.

Israel expressed concern last week that MBB had helped Iraq build a missile whose 1,000 km (600 miles) range would reach the Jewish state.

"You could neither build nor draw up production for missiles in Mosul. It is only for research purposes," MBB spokesman Udo Philipp said.

FRG firm helped Iraq with military research

MUNICH, April 19. (Reuters) The West German aerospace firm Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB) said yesterday it helped Iraq with military research but denied the contract involved building a missile.

The company said its subsidiary MBB-Transaer (MBB-TT) was a sub-contractor in a project, now under international scrutiny, to build laboratories for military and other research in the Iraqi town of Mosul.

"The main laboratories we delivered material to were for research into high-frequency techniques and calibration," he added.

Philipp said high-frequency techniques had military applications in areas such as steering and radar technology.

He said the installation in Iraq was not related to separate missile projects for Argentina and Egypt, which he said MBB had withdrawn from in 1985 and 1988 at the insistence of Western nations.

"The Iraq business continues," he said. "The installations in Mosul are finished now, but they have not yet been tested."

The West German weekly magazine Quick said this week MBB-TT had played a key role in developing a defence and missile research centre at Mosul.

Women warned of dress code

NICOSIA, April 19. (Reuters) Iranian authorities have warned women that they may be punished by up to 74 lashes if they wear make-up or see-through stockings in public.

A notice by the State Security Council printed in Iranian newspapers this week warned that laws punishing violators of hijab, or Islamic covering, would be strictly enforced from Friday.

Warning against hijablessness of the face, body and legs, the notice listed eight types of violations.

These include exposing the hair in a vulgar way, using lipstick and eye-shadow in a provocative manner, wearing clothes that accentuate body curves, and wearing see-through stockings not covered by trousers.

Iran hanged 10 drug traffickers in public yesterday, Tehran Radio reported.

Shamir hopes full ties with Hungary soon

Iraq rejects Israeli offer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 19. (Reuters) Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir used his brief trip to Hungary to push for full diplomatic relations with a close Soviet ally and to press forward his ideas for Palestinian elections.

Officials close to the rightist leader indicated Shamir had arranged his day of meetings in Budapest yesterday to urge the communist bloc to back his ideas for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But political analysts in Jerusalem said Shamir's ultimate objective was to renew diplomatic relations with Hungary, severed after the 1967 Middle East war.

Shamir's office kept quiet beforehand about the 24-hour visit which began on Monday night, even denying rumours on Sunday that it was about to take place.

Shamir met Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth and Communist Party leader Karol

Grosz who has close ties with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

After his meetings, Shamir said he hoped for renewal of full diplomatic ties with Hungary in the near future.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor, who accompanied Shamir on the trip, told Israel television Hungary had initiated the visit and Israel had not expected a resumption of ties during the trip.

Political analysts said Hungarian officials believe Israel could be influential with Washington in winning them more favourable trade terms.

● Iraq on Monday rejected what it described as an Israeli offer to normalise relations between the two countries.

A statement from the Iraqi Information Ministry said, "Iraq will not endeavour to normalise relations with one who usurped the land of Palestine, killed thousands of innocent people and who exercised different ways of terror and torture against the sons of Palestine."

UN food convoy attacked

NAIROBI, April 19. (Reuters) Gunmen attacked the first UN food convoy carrying famine relief into rebel-held areas of southern Sudan and forced it to return to Kenya, a UN official said.

Nils Enqvist, the regional coordinator of the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for East Africa, said one truck was blown up and two Kenyan drivers were wounded when the convoy came under fire near Kapoeta, southeastern Sudan on Monday.

The 16-truck convoy was on its way from Lokichokio in northwestern Kenya to the rebel-held town of Torit when it was ambushed about 30 km (20 miles) west of Kapoeta.

Enqvist said yesterday that a military escort provided by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) vanished into the bush as soon as the shooting began and the convoy turned round and returned to Lokichokio.

Saudi prince plans to build house in Aspen

Mansion to dwarf airport

ASPEN, Colorado, April 19. (UPI) A Saudi Arabian prince plans to build a mansion on a mesa outside this glitzy city of the rich and famous so large it would dwarf the county airport.

Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdel Aziz, 39, has submitted plans to the Pitkin county planning office for a 43,000-square foot home on Star mesa that is nearly double the size of the largest home in the county. Bandar is the nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and his country's ambassador to the United States.

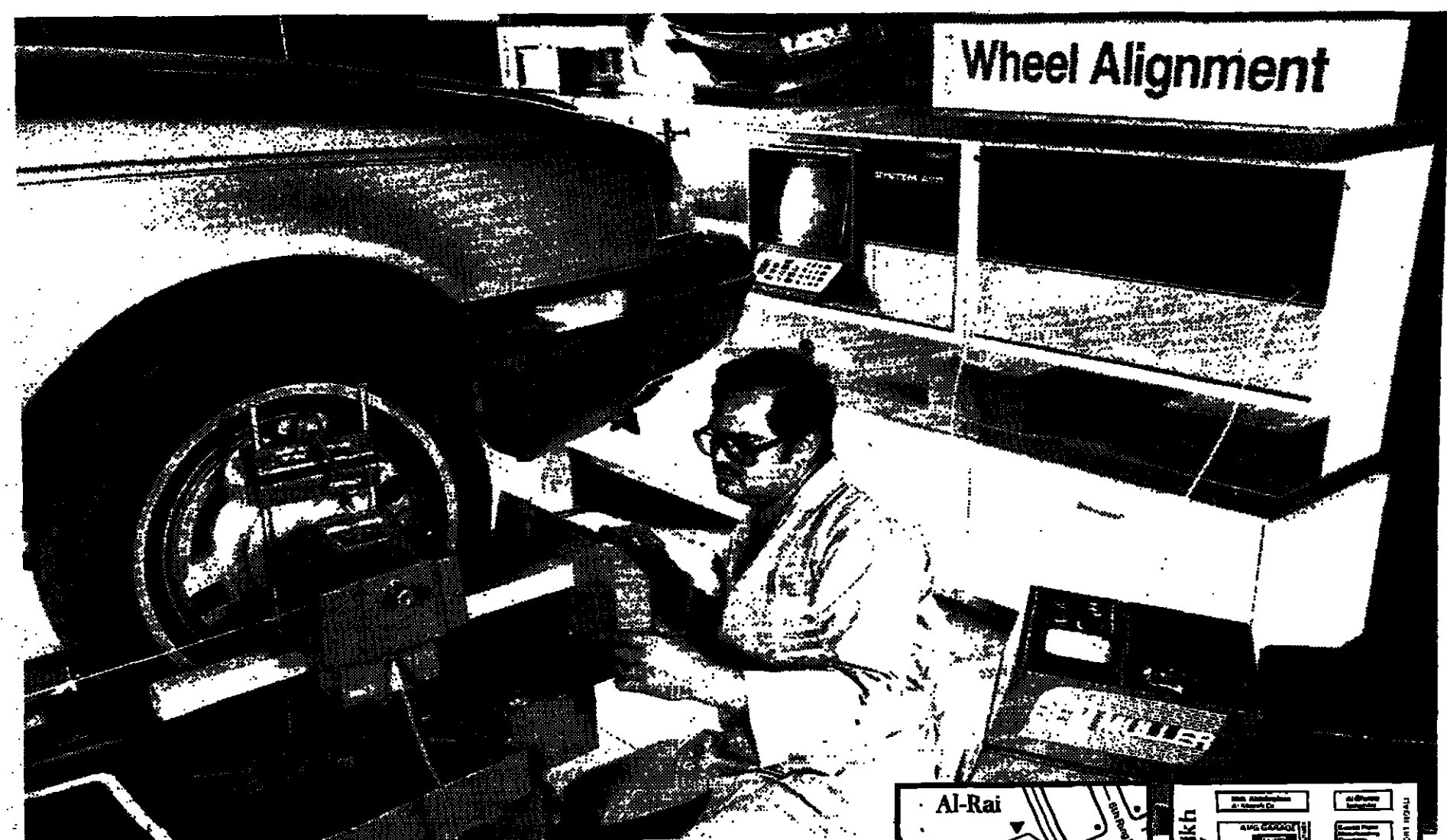
In comparison, the Pitkin county airport, where numerous private jets can be seen every day, is only 36,000 square feet.

The Aspen real estate community was speechless when

asked what a home that size might cost. But, based on the estimated cost of the previous largest home in the Aspen area built a few years ago, it could approach \$50 million.

Bandar's proposed house would include a garage much larger than the average American home, measuring 3,850-square feet. It also would have 13 bedrooms, four living rooms, a steam room, game room, a "primary food service area," "warming and service area," visitor and driver waiting areas, separate "his" and "her" baths and dressing rooms, a massage-grooming room, bars, a pub, swimming pool, jacuzzi and a separate guest house.

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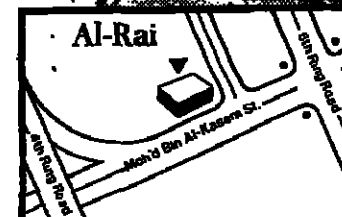


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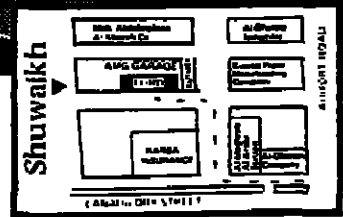


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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN you are labouring for others, let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 BC - 479 BC).

OPINION

Deft handling

THE wisest people are those who hide their cleverness and professionalism. This is a fact.

I believe that President Hosni Mubarak is capable of changing the whole nation's way of thinking, if he wants to.

He relieved Abu Ghazala from his post as defence minister and Army commander, and gave the position to another man. Even if the press analysis had continued to speculate on the new personality for a month, no one would have known him, had Mubarak not named him first.

Mubarak has introduced a new concept in state management. When he seeks a change he does not make a prior announcement. This is good administrative thinking, as it avoids discontent, which often accompanies official changes and advanced announcements.

Mubarak relieved Abu Ghazala from his post in order to give a dimension to the national security in Egypt.

Government posts should not be taken for advantage as inherited property. People in Egypt and the Arab world still remember the personality of Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Aamer, the minister of defence during Nasser's rule, when he was sharing power with the late President Nasser. Removing Aamer was not an easy task, thus Mubarak's decision created a big surprise.

Abu Ghazala occupied several important posts. It is important that the head of state improve the performance of such posts in a natural way to ensure that things are normal and democratic institutions are strong and deeply rooted, thus giving the impression that Egypt in 1989 is not Egypt in 1967-1980.

Such a natural and normal move gave the Egyptian President strength which will be remembered by many.

Egypt, to many, has become the state of stability and democratic institutions. It is no longer the country where we wait for incidents to take place and the bursting of a tyre in a Cairo suburb does not mean a bomb explosion.

President Mubarak proved that the wisest are those who do not trade with the cleverness and professionalism.

The defence minister and Army commander was changed without preparation, and as Mubarak said, Egypt is no longer the country of power centres. We have already overcome this.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Stop Lebanese bloodletting

KUWAIT, April 18, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti daily 'Al Watan' has castigated the warring factions in Lebanon, accusing them of being unpatriotic and uncaring towards their country and its citizens.

"The gunners in and around Beirut have lost every sense of humanity and devotion to homeland," the daily commented editorially.

The paper said the blood-tainted hands of the combatants, that have caused a 1400-casualty toll and wanton destruction, testify to their ugly deeds.

"They are seeking to demolish Beirut from within, demoralise its children and women through mad shelling after the city proved a hard nut to crack (during the Israeli siege of 1982)," Al Watan said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1528 — Truce is signed between Britain and the Netherlands to ease commercial crisis.

1534 — Elizabeth Barton, the Maid of Kent, is executed in England with five of her associates for treason.

1657 — Jews in New Amsterdam are granted equal rights and privileges of citizens.

1792 — France declares war on Austria.

1854 — Austria and Prussia conclude defensive alliance against Russia.

1919 — King Nicholas is dethroned in Montenegro, which votes for union with Serbo-Slovene-Croat state (Yugoslavia).

1923 — Egyptian constitution is adopted.

1945 — Soviet forces penetrate Berlin defences in World War II.

1957 — United States resumes aid to Israel; Japan protests to Soviet Union over nuclear tests.

1959 — United Federal Party wins Northern Rhodesia elections, and African National Congress is suppressed.

1970 — President Richard M. Nixon announces withdrawal of 150,000 US military personnel from South Vietnam.

1972 — US Apollo 16 astronauts make safe landing on moon.

1978 — Soviet fighter planes force off-course South Korean airline down in Soviet Union near Arctic Circle.

1986 — Giant irrigation reservoir bursts and floods Sri Lanka town, leaving at least 100 people feared dead and up to 20,000 families homeless.

1987 — PLO chairman Yasser Arafat calls for sovereign Palestinian state "with Jerusalem as its capital."

1988 — Soldiers bar Palestinians from crossing into Israel from occupied territories to block violence on Israel's 40th anniversary.

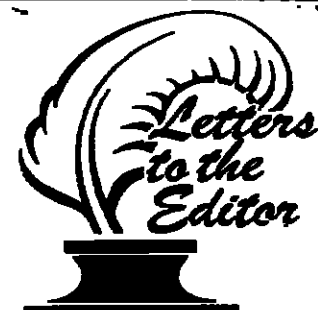
A right to defend

SIR: Strong nations deny sovereignty to weak ones by dictating to them. They strengthen their armed forces and stockpile nuclear weapons thinking if they are strong no one will attack them.

But if India, Egypt, Pakistan, Iraq and South American countries do likewise, the strong nations object. They intimidate these poor countries by threatening to cut all assistance and co-operation. Most of the military equipment that is promised to the poor nations is obsolete before it is even delivered.

Arab nations are put under tremendous pressure to stop manufacturing their own military equipment. Some of them have even been attacked, while Israel receives the latest military equipment. This is not fair, moral nor logical. All countries have the right to defend themselves.

Adil A.J. Al Hadithy, Safat.



Get your facts right

SIR: Zahed Matar in his Day by Day on April 13 got his facts wrong about the incident at the Sheffield stadium. People died because they were crushed against the fencing and not because the fencing collapsed.

Kenneth Cook, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Democracy and freedom in Egypt are its safety valve

Rumours of a coup are utterly false: Mubarak

By Ahmed Jarallah

AT times, decisions which are obvious to those in power, seem highly controversial to others and thus lead to a lot of analysis. However, when details are made public and decisions are clearly explained, a clearer picture emerges in the minds of those who are unfamiliar with the intricacies involved.

This is exactly what has transpired with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He allowed discussions to proceed and at an appropriate moment intervened to explain. Egypt during Mubarak's rule has certainly changed and reflects a state of freedom and democracy.

The decision of President Mubarak to transfer Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala from his post as defence minister and Commander of the Army to the post of assistant to the President is a true expression of the new transition taking place in Egypt.

For those closely following the development in Egypt, this measure indicates the extent of stability and the trust in the regime in Egypt. The President's action confirmed the need for new blood in some of the country's vital posts.

I have taken all these ideas into consideration and have been motivated by two factors in conducting the following interview with President Mubarak.

Firstly, what motivated some people to be apprehensive by the transfer of Abu Ghazala and secondly, what indicated to those who felt very confident that what has transpired is an indication that democracy is firmly rooted in Egypt. This introduction was the basis of my first question to the President.

Q. Mr President, the Egyptian people understand that any change in the portfolio of the defence minister and general commander of the armed forces requires an in-depth study, as the post is considered a centre of power, similar to that of the presidency. Has the office of the President been avoiding discussions of disputed issues with the office of defence?

A. This overview might have been a reality in the past. Personally, I do not subscribe to this concept, nor do I hold any such feeling. The late President Abdul Nasser learnt a lesson after 1967 when Abdul Hakeem Amer dominated the scene. Nasser did not have a qualified military force to support him in his decision when he took his political stand in 1967. Consequently, we were defeated.

I do not subscribe to the feeling that there are some power centres in the Army. These and other rumours of a military coup in Egypt are without basis and utterly false. The Egyptian Army is well known for its discipline and loyalty to the country.

Q. Rumour had it that Your Excellency had called out the Army to confront the backlash from the decision to shift Abu Ghazala from his post?

A. This is far from the truth. The fact is that the Army received the decision as any other constitutional institution in the state. Even the media was in the dark till the decision was issued.

Such decisions should not be made public in advance. In this instance, only I was privy to the decision as I believe such decisions are not to be debated to achieve public security. It is always a pragmatic decision to have a substitute waiting-in-the wings for all sensitive posts — because the vagaries of life are so unpredictable.

Q. Some people claim that such decisions may cause a military coup. Can you please comment?

A. These are baseless surmises arising in the minds of those who are still living in the past. We have constitutional bodies and a working democracy. Anyone desiring to stage a coup should have valid reasons which are acceptable to the public. This scenario does not exist. Even our economic problems are being positively addressed by the state. As everyone is aware our problems are all of an old nature, though, there is no doubt that the situation is well on its way to being improved. Our problems go back to exactly 1906 — prior to the First World War.

Q. Mr President, several people claim that the decision to replace Abu Ghazala has been dictated by the USA — especially since the decision was taken after your return from Washington? Can you elucidate in the light of what these people claim, that Abu Ghazala is a man of Egypt?

A. I have also heard somebody saying that Abu Ghazala was a man of the USA and thus, the President would not remove him. When I returned from my visit to the USA, I did not take my decision, in the sense that this was dictated by a green light or red light from the USA or any other light, from any other source. I do not like to hear such accusations — whether they emanate from a friendly state or

a hostile country. My decisions flow solely in the interests of the people of Egypt. The defence minister was in his post for nine years and public interest required that he be placed elsewhere. Changes are always structured towards betterment. Betterment of the Egyptian peoples way of life is what I have dedicated myself to accomplish.

Q. Rumour has it that the World Bank called for the change in the portfolio of the defence minister due to his lavish military spending. How do you see this observation?

A. The defence minister did not spend money lavishly as he is dictated to working within a modest allocated budget. Neither the World Bank nor the International Monetary Fund discussed this aspect with me. The two institutions do not figure in our national situation.

Q. President Mubarak, it is rumoured that Abu Ghazala was replaced due to corruption in the Army?

A. Corruption will continue to exist as long as there are human beings and it does exist in all parts of the world. The concept is to fight this scourge and limit the resulting damage. There should be a change in the Army to coincide with the recent reshuffle of the cabinet. Even in Israel the posts in the Army are changed every three to four years.

The change in the portfolio of the defence minister is a natural outcome in any democracy and should be made from time to time. According to the law, the commander of the forces should be changed every four years or granted an extension by the president. The aim of change is to develop and activate the capabilities of the Army.

Q. Let us continue speaking about the decision to change the Army commander in the light that some people see this as a civilised step reflecting the level of democracy in Egypt.

A. I fully concur. We have become a state of institutions and the change of any minister in Egypt takes place just like any other advanced democratic country. Change is inevitable and should be carried out as long as the aim is in the public interest.

If such a change had taken place in a dictatorship it would have resulted in chaos. The dictator would feel tense after taking such a decision. Fortunately, we in Egypt live in a state of institutions and not in a dictatorship. Democracy and freedom in Egypt are its safety valve. Everyone is permitted freedom of speech. The president is not above criticism. This can only take place in a democratic country. Democracy and freedom are the backbone of political stability in Egypt.

Q. Mr President, why did you choose Abu Taleb instead of Abu Ghazala?

A. Even if I had selected Ahmed Al Jarallah they would have asked why him?

You can ask me the same question in any Ministry other than the Defence Ministry. You could ask me why I selected Safwat Al Sharif as the information minister. For me as a president, I have my own evaluations of the persons I select. I also have my special calculations. For each post there are some qualities. I evaluate persons in accordance with some conditions that I am totally convinced with.

Q. One of the rumours claim that removing Abu Ghazala from his post gave additional powers to the posts of President. What do you think?

A. There are many rumours. The president is the president in a country like Egypt beside being the one who is responsible for making changes that are required for the public interest. I received many inquiries from Gulf states and other countries of the world after making the change because they are not accustomed to such decisions. I replied that what had happened in Egypt was natural. This change is not to be feared in Egypt the presidency is not just a post of honour it is a work.

Q. Mr President, how did you feel towards the Army when you took your decision? Did you not feel that a reaction might rise among the armed forces?

A. I announced the decision, and I repeat it is a natural one. I also repeat that we are a country of institutions. I asked the former defence minister Abu Ghazala to occupy another post and he left for Iraq in an official visit after the decision. Everything went on naturally. The Army staff received the decision as any other constitutional institution. It seems that the press made it a big story. But for us it is just a small tale. I began following up analyses and rumours in newspapers. These rumours are just for fun as you can see. It is surprising that some people believe these rumours. But I want to tell you that we do not make any thing without being convinced. We hear advice and rumours but



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

my decision is taken according to the my needs.

Q. Mr President, there are some who consider Abu Ghazala the man of America in Egypt and thus you can't remove him. Is this among the rumours?

A. Politics is usually the politics of countries. No country in the world will depend upon a person to execute its policy, whether the country is America or others. Because the person is not permanent and is subjected to departure any time, he may die. Thus, it is wrong to think this way. America is a superpower and I don't think that it depends upon individuals to execute its policies at least in its relations with others. There is no country that depends on a person for its relations for this would mean that the fate of those relations will completely rest upon this person.

Q. Mr President, how has Abu Ghazala received the decision of his new appointment?

A. Abu Ghazala was a self-controlled man and he was my colleague. We told him about the nature of his new post and dealt naturally with the issue and on the second day I sent him off on an official mission. For me I have no malice against anybody and even when I would like to dismiss a person entirely from official duties, this action would not be taken with malice. I never link personal emotions with official duties, the outcome of official activities constitute the essence for me. In the past I had dismissed close friends because they were not effective, and I kept a dividing line between friendship and official work.

Q. Mr President, some people accuse your government of sluggish movement and understanding. What is your opinion?

A. If we bring a quick witted and precipitant government, the criticism will concentrate on this aspect as well and the people will say this precipitancy was not justified. The government has a huge workload and we are facing some problems that might be dated back to 1906. We have decided to actually combat such problems in the 1980s.

For example the drainage network in Cairo, this network had never witnessed any remedy since 1906 except once in 1982 and recently the government has incurred about four million pounds for improving the sewage network.

I acknowledge that we are sluggish in some aspects but in view of the load I can say the government has a huge responsibility.

Q. Mr President, do you believe that the Egyptian National Assembly was impeding the government particularly towards the issuing of economic resolutions towards the introduction of the country as a vital area for foreign investment?

A. The National Assembly groups nationalist members either leftists or rightists. All of them are eventually nationalists and concerned with the country's interests. Of course the assembly witnessed acute debates like the other assemblies throughout the world, and as you may be aware, each deputy in view of media coverage was keen to show more interest before his electoral constituency in order to gain his seat in the future.

This is natural in the houses of parliament even in democratic states. Some debates contribute significantly in improving government ideas and draft laws. We have not faced any impediment from the assembly, but as I said deputies used to show a parliamentary keenness and the government did not presume that all the draft laws would be endorsed by the National Assembly, as the existence of the opposition is available but resolutions are on adopted majority basis.

Q. Mr President, I would like also to concentrate on some local issues: Is there any improvement in the investment trend towards Egypt particularly due to the political stability achieved during your reign?

A. The investment in Egypt has been improving, but I would like to point out that about 75% of the investment belongs to the Egyptian citizens and 18% of the investment belongs to Arabs and the remainder is foreign. But we feel that the investments were exceeding at the moment and we are planning to enact a unified investment law which is scheduled to be issued within two weeks and will be referred to the National Assembly for approval. This law shall help develop our investment policy and will be reflected on the country's economic plans.

Q. Mr President while we are talking about the investment, I would like to ask what happened to Al Rayan company. Is the government to be blamed for this issue or are the people themselves to be blamed?

A. We are following up this issue, particularly in respect of the funds flow in from abroad and invested in the company. Of course we expect no solution for this disaster and the investors themselves are to blame as they should make sure how and with whom they must invest their funds. The government gave warnings but nobody was ready to give an ear to the government warnings.

For the company's funds out of the country, this needed special arrangements with the countries involved. For the funds deposited in the Egyptian banks, the national Judicial Authority here shall undertake the issue.

Q. Mr President, with regard to the Abu Ghazala issue, some people were under the impression that the recent decision was a result of a struggle between him and the Minister of Interior Zaki Bader and as such the struggle has been settled eventually in favour of Bader. What is your opinion?

A. We have no power struggle, we are living in a constitutional state and everybody should be evaluated through his work rather than any struggle. Nobody can make any progress at the expense of others.

Q. Mr President, let us talk about your recent visit to the USA. We have been informed that President Bush had talked with you in one language and talked with the Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir in a different language and there was a disparity in the two languages and the attitude. What is your opinion?

A. There was no disparity, there was an agreed principle which represented the necessity of ending Israeli occupation to be based on trading the territories

with peace. These principles were available and President Bush had accepted them and before that the Americans admitted to the feasibility of the dialogue with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which constituted progress. But Shamir came to the USA and offered several proposals concerning the conducting of polls in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In my opinion, this principle will not be rejected by USA but will attract the USA as a democratic state, but I am afraid that these polls will postpone and impede a solution to the crisis.

Q. Mr President, do you think that the Israelis have any intention to settle the crisis?

A. In my opinion, if good faith is available there would be many means for a solution to emerge. But the thing is Shamir is calling for polls in the occupied territories, then why is he still rejecting the convening of the international peace conference. We would like to know what is behind the said polls.

Q. Mr President after your visit to Washington do you think any thing new could be submitted by King Hussein to President Bush during their scheduled meeting today (Wednesday)?

A. King Hussein represents one of the cornerstones in the cause and USA would like to hear his point of view and consult with him on the ideas proposed by Shamir and they will also listen to his own point of view and if there are any new intentions for the settling of the crisis.

Q. Mr President, when the Arab Co-operation Council had been established the first question that was raised was whether the council would reflect an international role or play the role of an international power. I am also asking you the same question.

A. Is the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) or Arab Magreb Union (AMU) reflecting an international role?

I would like to point out that these councils have been established in the framework of the Arab League and aim to boost economic co-operation among member states, as the Arab League has failed on its part.

We were planning to establish these regional councils just for enhancing economic co-operation and never to constitute any military power, we would like to realise a kind of economic co-operation similar to that achieved by the European countries.

Q. Mr President, Syria and South Yemen still far away from any Arab Council, what about the situation of these two countries in the future?

A. Aden (South Yemen) has its own circumstance and I can not exactly explain that circumstance but for Syria which is a sister country, I see that Syria shall join the Arab Co-operation Council at a later stage but for the time being there were some problems between Syria and Iraq.

Q. Mr President I think the absence of confidence between Syria and Iraq had played a role in this connection.

A. The Iraqi President is a wise, balanced and logical man. He shows a readiness for understanding. When good faith is available all obstacles will be surmounted.

Q. Mr President what about the current flirtation prevailing between Egypt and Syria? Has it achieved anything?

A. It has come to nothing. When I was in Kuwait attending the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, I shook hands with President Hafez Al Assad, but a separate meeting with him was never arranged. I entered the hall and found President Al Assad standing with Sheikh Zayed and I greeted him.

Furthermore I had suggested to President Al Assad for a meeting in his country but he regretted saying if we would like to hold any meeting we should first agree upon the issues to be on the table.

But the media campaigns against each other were suspended and recently I read an interview with President Al Assad published by a foreign newspaper. When asked about his relations with me, Assad said that he was a pilot and that I am a pilot but he could not hear my voice.

Once when I was in India to attend a conference I asked for a meeting with President Al Assad but they told me he was sleeping, and I was hoping to see him, but not to restore the relations between our two countries. We the Arabs should meet together particularly during the international conferences irrespective of any political differences and the media attacks among the Arab should be suspended. This type of vilification does not happen in the advanced countries.

Q. Mr President, what about your country's relations with Libya. People are now under the impression that your relations are improving, the thing which is confirmed by the brothers in Libya? All we ask of the Libyans is to

maintain friendly neighbourly relations. I always stand up for them at the international arena and support them all the way, even without them knowing. We have ceased our informational campaigns against them as we no longer wish to be busy with such futile propaganda.

Q. Mr President, amidst this tension-packed atmosphere do you think the regular or extraordinary Arab summit will be held soon?

A. HH King Hassan II has called for the convening of an Arab summit on May 20, an extraordinary session that is. And I think that arrangements are currently under way for this purpose. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques wanted a regular summit and has been genuinely preparing for it. However, the extraordinary session is likely to be held, and that is for sure. Be it an extraordinary or a regular summit, the important thing is that it is going to be held. Therefore, it must be preceded by a series of bilateral get-togethers to smooth over existing problems on the Arab arena, whether the Palestine issue, or the Lebanese crisis, whereby to develop a unified stance towards vital issues.

Q. Mr President, the member of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) refuse to attend a summit where Egypt is not represented... So how will Egypt be present at the summit?

A. Egypt holds no grudge against no one. And if we receive official invitation, we will by all means attend the summit.

Q. Mr President, is it true that Syria is excluded particularly on account of its role in Lebanon?

A. Syria is not excluded, and she is part of the international conference. No one ever said that Syria is out of it. For Syria is an Arab country, and even though we have our differences, she remains an active part of the settlement.

Q. Mr President, how do you explain the current massacre in Lebanon?

A. Lebanon is a different issue. I see that there must be a solution to the Lebanese crisis in the coming Arab summit. Even the international body is now thinking of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

By coincidence, the international body wants all non-Lebanese forces, be it Syrian or Israeli. We said this a long time ago. Our opinion is that all should get out of Lebanon and the problem will end. I believe that if this solution goes ahead, the Middle East conflict as a whole will head towards a solution. If the Middle East problem is solved, the Lebanon problem will be considered solved by itself. I mean here in case the Middle East solution comes before the solution of the Lebanese crisis.

Q. Mr President, there is a Lebanese and Arab question how to get the non-Lebanese forces out of Lebanon. Is it by an Arab-International demand? Or how?

A. Arab appeals have been growing in this direction.

Q. But in case the appeals fail and so fails the Arab six-man committee, what is the alternative?

A. The chairman of the six Arab committee and the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, exerted big efforts and I wish the committee every success. The issue needs international pressure because of the presence of the Israelis. This pressure should come in particular from the big powers, and more specifically from the European countries. France is currently paying attention and playing a good role in solving the crisis in Lebanon. This effort may at least lead into a long and permanent truce.

Q. Mr President, there are some people who believe that the war in the Gulf has been transferred to Lebanon because Iran has entered as a party in the war in Lebanon?

A. Our informations truly indicate that Iran indeed sent human aid into Lebanon. The Arab world must realise the extent of the danger of such a step because it threatens many sides and not Lebanon alone. Iran is sending soldiers to Lebanon and if no steps are taken to stop them, the Arab nation will suffer from this in the future. For that, I am taking every care to achieve a solution for the Palestinian problem as soon as possible, to achieve a solution for the Lebanese crisis also. Moreover, the holding of the International Peace Conference will lead to many benefits for the Arab nation.

Q. Mr President, did the visit of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques result in some thing else other than what we have from the official communique?

A. The visit resulted in forming a joint economic committee headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries, for the aim of pushing forward the economic co-operation between the two countries. But after the visit came the Holy month of Ramadan, and as you know, work is slow in Ramadan.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Rebellion against budget pact proposed

WASHINGTON, April 19. (Reuters): A group of Senate Budget Committee Democrats proposed rebellion on Tuesday against the compromise budget plan worked out between President Bush and congressional leaders.

Led by Senator Bennett Johnston, they said they wanted to shock Congress and the White House into action on the deficit this year rather than wait until next year when the choices will be much larger spending cuts or substantial tax hikes.

Next year is also an election year for all members of the House of Representatives and one-third of the 100-member Senate.

Johnston, backed by several other Democrats, acknowledged their plan for automatic across-the-board spending cuts would probably fail and said he opposed the idea. But he told the panel: "Give a shock to the body politic."

On Friday, Bush and congressional leaders announced a plan to cut the 1990 deficit to \$99.4 billion from the current estimate for that year of about \$127 billion. The deficit this year is about \$167 billion.

Johnston said if the budget negotiators had used realistic assumptions about economic growth and higher interest rates, the deficit in 1990 would be \$130 billion.

"This budget involves no pain. This budget involves no sacrifice and it fools no one," Johnston said.

Senate Budget Committee chairman Jim Sasser, a Democrat who participated in the budget negotiations with the White House, told the panel he agreed the compromise did not go far enough but said it was the best deal they could reach.

He and Senator Pete Domenici, the senior Republican on the panel, said they were bound by the agreement to oppose any major changes.

The House and Senate Budget Committees must write the budget and send it to the president for approval before it becomes binding on congressional spending legislation.

Iran cuts oil output

ABU DHABI, April 19. (Reuters): Iran cut oil output to near its OPEC quota in April, oil industry sources in the Gulf said today.

"Iran wants to stick to its quota until the June OPEC meeting, maybe to be on good terms with Saudi Arabia to forge another output pact," an oil industry executive said.

In the first half of April Iran produced around 2.7 million barrels a day (BPD) compared to over three million in March, the sources said. Its OPEC quota is 2.64 BPD.

Iran and Iraq were given equal quotas by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last November when the organisation agreed on a total output ceiling of 18.5 million BPD.

Oil prices have risen eight dollars a barrel since due to restraints by OPEC members and production problems elsewhere.

Industry sources said crude exports from Iran's main Kharg island terminal and offshore fields were about 30 million barrels or around two million BPD in the first 15 days of April, down from 2.3-2.4 million recorded in March.

Iran's domestic refining needs are around 700,000 BPD which would bring Iranian output to about 2.7 million BPD in the first half of April, oil industry sources said.

President ducks major conflicts

Bush scores some points

WASHINGTON, April 19. (AP): US President George Bush scored points with organised labour Tuesday in his first post-election speech to a union audience.

But he didn't mention his positions on the Eastern Airlines strike and raising the minimum wage, which have soured labour's relations with the new administration.

"I want this door at the White House to stay open," Bush told about 3,000 delegates representing building trades unions from across the country. "I want to work with you."

The closest Bush came to discussing his recent differences with labour was when he told delegates: "There's a lot more to the relationship between the White House and the labour organisations than one issue or another. ... we have had honest differences."

but we agree on goals and what matters is that we make progress on issues of shared concern."

Labour had several visible confrontations with former President Ronald Reagan on issues like the firing of striking air traffic controllers and White House opposition to legislation requiring employers to give workers advance notice of plant closings.

But labour's lasting resentment toward Bush's predecessor comes more from what they considered to be staunchly anti-union appointments to the national labour relations board.

Bush took pains to avoid exciting the union animosity that flourished during the Reagan years. He praised the already cordial crowd and improved his standing with labour leaders by promising to make labour board

appointments "whose neutrality and integrity are above reproach."

"My appointments will not be anti-labour or, as I say, anti-business. They will be based on fair trade," Bush said.

"That is indeed a welcome step," said AFL-CIO spokesman Rex Hardesty.

Bush also praised the group's patriotism, role in the nation's economic growth and efforts on behalf of Poland's Solidarity trade union movement, saying "wherever the free trade movement is threatened, so too is democracy."

But noticeably missing from the speech were any direct references to Bush's promise to veto minimum wage bills that have cleared the House and Senate or his refusal to intervene to block a strike that has grounded Eastern for nearly two months.

Crude prices soar

Kuwait, Riyadh in oil co-operation talks

KUWAIT, April 19. (Agencies): Kuwait's Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa returned home late last night from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia following a brief visit during which he met with his Saudi counterpart Hisham Nazer.

The two ministers discussed the oil situation, during Sheikh Ali's visit which came in the framework of periodic meetings held by the two ministers in the two countries.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are prominent members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Crude oil prices soared in active trading in the Far East today after a North Sea oil rig explosion on Tuesday halted production of more than a quarter of Britain's oil output.

News that production of nearly half-a-million barrels per day of Britain's key Brent blend had temporarily stopped boosted prices to around \$20.80 a barrel, up over one dollar from Tuesday's London close.

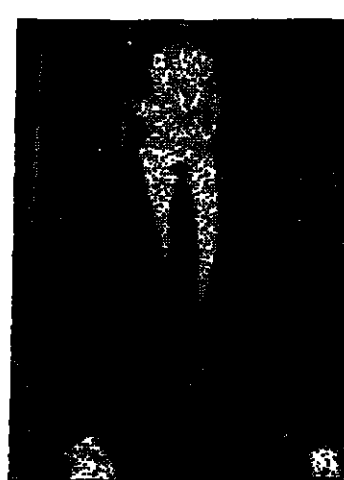
Oil prices jumped during the morning on the London platform, rising 160 km (100 miles) northeast of Lerwick in the Shetland Isles after a gas leak on Tuesday, forcing the closure of the Brent system which had been transporting 471,975 BPD of oil to the Sullom Voe terminal.

Shell Expro, the platform operator, said it would make a detailed inspection of the Cormorant Alpha platform today to assess when Brent system oil production could resume.

Shutdown "It's a big shutdown even if it's only for a few days," said an official of a major oil company in Tokyo.

The benchmark US crude, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), traded at \$20.18 in Tokyo for July delivery, up 60 cents from its closing level in New York on Tuesday.

Tuesday's accident is just the latest in series of incidents which have hit Britain's North Sea production in recent months and driven oil prices higher.



Hisham Nazer



Sheikh Ali

Meanwhile, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi perhaps put it best when he remarked last year that Iraq was "floating on a lake of oil."

Even at the time of the early oil discoveries of the 1920s, the primitive seismic surveying methods, then in use, showed that the country contained vast oil deposits which could one day make it into a major producer.

This initial assessment has been confirmed year after year in the last 65 years, as fresh discoveries are made and evidence comes to light of yet more oil under the ground.

Breakthrough The breakthrough came with the nationalisation of Iraq's oil industry in 1972, when advanced seismic and exploration equipment was put to use to get a more accurate idea of how much oil wealth the country had.

Obviously, these surveys were made with much greater commitment as the industry was no longer being operated by non-nationals, but by Iraqis who took all decisions in the national interest and who were motivated by higher ideals than mere profit taking.

The hard work was well rewarded as the country's proven oil reserves began to climb, rising from 40 billion to 65 billion to 72 billion barrels and recently to as much as 100 billion barrels. Iraq also has over 40 billion barrels in semi-

proven or probable reserves. The latest figures place Iraq second only to Saudi Arabia, which was what prompted the Iraqi oil minister to make his now widely-quoted observation.

Geologists, basing their assessments on recent oil discoveries in southern and central parts of the country, believe that Iraq's oil reserves could well exceed the officially announced figure.

Referring to Iraq's rich northern and southern oilfields, they point to the imminent commissioning of the first phase of the giant east Baghdad oilfield.

Project With the coming on stream of this project involving 80 wells, Iraq will be producing oil from its northern, southern and central fields, a further demonstration of Al-Chalabi's graphic description.

The east Baghdad oilfield, discovered in the early 1970s, covers an area of nearly 700 sq. km, extending from the Diyala river to the south and east of Baghdad to the town of Al-Taji in the north.

The first phase has been jointly implemented by the State Company for Oil Projects (SCOP) and the Northern Petroleum Company (NPC), both affiliated to the Ministry of Oil. The experimental production capacity of the field is expected to be around 20,000 BPD of oil and 14 million cu ft of gas a day.

Ramada agrees to sell hotel group

PHOENIX, April 19. (AP): Ramada Inc., a hospitality-industry trademark since 1954, has agreed to sell its 825 hotels and motels, change its name and become a gambling operation, the company said Tuesday.

The \$540-million sale to New World Development Co. of Hong Kong will reduce Ramada's holdings to three casinos in Nevada and one in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In turn, Prime Motor Inns of Fairfield, New Jersey, will pay an undisclosed sum to New World to operate as Franchisor of roughly 600 hotels and motels in the United States that are under the Ramada and Rodeway names.

The hotel group has more than 144,000 rooms under the Ramada Inns, Ramada Hotels, Rodeway Inns and Renaissance Hotels banners. Prime will

not act as Franchisor for the Renaissance Hotels or any overseas Ramada properties.

Ramada spokesman Joe Cole said company executives expected a return to profitability by concentrating on gaming. He said the new company, still unnamed, had no immediate plans for expansion.

"For the time being, we're going to run the properties we have," Cole said. "We just completed a five-year, \$350-million capital-expansion plan."

The Ramada name will belong to New World, and the gaming company will continue its headquarters in Phoenix, he said.

Ramada announced March 24 that it had agreed to sell its Marie Callender pie shops restaurant business. That sale for undisclosed terms will be completed by the end of the month, Cole said.

Effort to stop spiralling inflation

Argentina imposes price controls

BUENOS AIRES, April 19. (Reuters): Argentina on Tuesday clamped strict controls on all prices and said it would authorise rises only once a month in an effort to stop spiralling inflation.

Prices of food and household goods have nearly tripled in recent weeks, jeopardising the ruling radical party's chances in general elections set for May 14, and the Argentine currency plunged nearly 17 per cent against the US dollar on Tuesday.

The price tripling of basic items prompted political, business and labour leaders to voice concern over the potential social consequences of the government's sweeping reforms.

On Tuesday, a Trade Secretariat statement said that under a new system described as one of "managed prices" companies seeking to raise prices must request official clearance from trade authorities.

The new price policy repealed a Trade Secretariat regulation which allowed prices to

be automatically adjusted by a percentage of increases in the rates of public utilities.

Companies may raise prices this month only if they prove their production costs rose before April 14. Trade Secretariat authorities will have 15 days to rule on requests filed by companies, the regulation stated.

The regulation will apply to leading companies whose prices have a major impact on the market and those that turned over more than 360 million australs (\$5.56 million) in the 12 months before April 18.

Companies must now obtain the Trade Secretariat's authorisation to market new products similar to existing ones, the regulation added.

Argentina's currency plunged 16.9 per cent against the US dollar on the first full day it was floated freely on the open market after the government imposed emergency measures to halt runaway inflation.

The austral closed at 64.75 to a dollar after

opening at 55.40. On Thursday, the last day of full operations before the exchange rate system reform, its free market quotation closed at 49.95.

In afternoon trading the austral slipped to 67.25 per dollar, dealers said, which would bring the Argentine currency's fall to 21.4 per cent in one day.

Drop

Dealers said the drop was due to increasing demand for dollars from importers and investors seeking to hedge against soaring inflation.

They added that dollar-holding exporters, who face a new duty linked to the exchange rate, chose not to sell, further reducing the supply of dollars.

President Raul Alfonsin's Radical Party faces a further hurdle in the run-up to the elections — April's inflation rate, due to be announced just a week before the polls. In March the cost of living rose 17 per cent.

Gasoline hits new 3-year high in all-time record sales

NEW YORK, April 19. (UPI): Gasoline hit a new three-year high in all-time record sales on the New York Mercantile Exchange Tuesday as traders bought on news of a shutdown of a North Sea platform and the belief an industry report would show a drop in supplies.

Unleaded gasoline climbed 1.78 cents to 75.86 cents a gallon, the highest closing price on the MERC since the 75.89 cents of Dec. 6, 1985.

The price has now gone up 15.84 cents since March 23, the day before the Alaska oil spill triggered fears of shortages.

An estimated 32,664 futures contracts were traded, well above last Tuesday's previous all-time high of 32,374 contracts. During the day, prices went as high as 74 cents a gallon and as low as 74 cents.

West Texas Intermediate — the benchmark US crude for immediate delivery — gained 29 cents on the MERC to close at \$21.51 a barrel, the highest price since Jan. 17, 1986, a MERC spokesman said.

Highest In US Gulf Coast spot trading, where oil is sold to the highest bidder, WTI gained 18 cents to \$21.28 a barrel.

On the European spot market, the United Arab Emirates' Dubai light — the key OPEC crude from the Middle East — rose 17 cents to \$16.39 a barrel.

Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent crude climbed 51 cents to \$19.96 a barrel.

New York analysts Pete Simonelli of Balfour MacLaine Futures Inc. and Andrew Lebow of EDF Mac International Futures Inc. said MERC prices were driven up by traders anticipating a drop in supplies in the weekly American Petroleum Institute report.

Released after the MERC closed, the API report showed stocks of crude declined last week by 5.7 million barrels and gasoline by 2.1 million barrels.

Simonelli and Lebow said traders also took note of a leak at a drilling platform in the North Sea that cut off the rig's 40,000 barrels-a-day output. Lebow said the platform is jointly operated by Shell and Exxon.

The price of crude dropped 20 cents on the MERC after news of the shutdown, Simonelli said, but later came back up. WTI had a high of \$21.59 a barrel on the day and a low of \$21.07.

Traders continue to be driven by the spectre of shortages in the gasoline price run-up, which analysts have been saying should end any day now.

"Gasoline has to see a dip. Maybe it'll come tomorrow," Simonelli said. He said traders might decide to take profits on contracts purchased on the basis of prices increasing.

On the MERC, home heating oil fell 1 cent to 52.76 cents a gallon.

Turkish steel workers to strike on May 4

ANKARA, April 19. (Reuters): At least 24,000 Turkish iron and steel workers will start a strike on May 4 to press demands for higher wages, a union leader said on Tuesday.

"We have decided to begin the strike on May 4," said Metin Turker, head of the independent Cokil-Is Union.

News of the strike followed a government decision on Tuesday to lift a 60-day strike ban imposed last month on the grounds of protecting national security. There was no official word on why the ban was lifted prematurely.

It was imposed hours before a strike on March 22 was due to begin in two factories in Karabuk on the Black Sea and Iskenderun in the south.



High technology

The French Matra corporation presents the M25, a prototype of a new generation of sports car which incorporates the latest advances in high technology. The 190 horse power 5-speed turbo engine takes the M25 from 0-100 km/h in less than five seconds with a carbon epoxy and honeycomb aluminium sandwich body structure. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dollar strengthens

Wall Street stocks surge to post-crash high

LONDON, April 19. (Agencies): The US dollar rose against nearly all major currencies in light European trading early today. Gold bullion fell.

Barring any unexpected events, dealers said they expected little movement in exchange rates throughout the day.

The dollar fell Tuesday in reaction to a US Labour Department report that consumer prices rose 0.5 per cent in March, which was in line with expectations and diminished concern of a rise in US interest rates.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Tuesday:

- 1.8572 West German marks, up from 1.8528
- 1.6320 Swiss francs, up from 1.6283
- 6.2885 French francs, up from 6.2750
- 2.0952 Dutch guilders, up from 2.0935
- 1.36250 Italian lire, down from 1.366.95
- 1.1860 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1848

In London, the British pound fell to \$1.7120 from \$1.7185 late Tuesday.

Price

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$383.15 a troy ounce, down from \$383.25 bid late Tuesday. At mid-morning today,

the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$382.90.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$382.70, down from \$384 bid late Tuesday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold fell \$2.43 to close at a bid of \$384.25.

Silver bullion fell in London to a bid price of \$5.77 a troy ounce, down from \$5.78 bid late Tuesday.

Wall Street share prices rallied on Tuesday to their highest close since the October 1987 crash as new government reports eased investors' anxieties about inflation and interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 41.61 points to 2,379.40, according to preliminary tallies, its highest finish since plunging 508 points on "Black Monday," October 19, 1987. The previous post-crash closing high was 2,347.14 on February 7.

Overheating

Advancing issues led declines by about two to one in heavy New York Stock Exchange trading on April 5, was 33,360.75. The key 225-share Nikkei index firmed 13.33 points on Tuesday.

But buying momentum fizzled out due to a muted reaction by the yen bond market and the absence of institutions as buyers.

The Nikkei index ended the day up 42.17 points, or 0.13 per cent, at a record close of 33,363.83.

The previous closing high, set on April 5, was 33,360.75. The key 225-share Nikkei index firmed 13.33 points on Tuesday.

Economy slow to boom

Iraq juggles foreign debt

BAGHDAD, April 19. (Reuters): "Onions have become dearer than honey," wailed an elderly Iraqi housewife.

Someone high up must have read her complaint to the Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra in mid-April because three days later the state reimposed price controls on privately produced fruit and vegetables, cutting retail prices by half.

The move seemed a setback for Iraq's version of Soviet perestroika which the government here had embarked on before the ceasefire last August in the war with Iran. The policy aims to reinvigorate the economy by rolling back state controls and privatising state-owned firms.

Last year the government freed prices of Iraqi farm produce, though it still subsidised basic food imports at an annual cost of one Western diplomat estimated at \$500 million.

But by this month onions had rocketed to the equivalent of \$9 per kilogramme (2.2 pounds), compared with 75 cents before controls were lifted.

Prices

Other prices went the same way: \$10 for 30 eggs, \$18 for one kg of mutton and \$6 for the same weight of potatoes.

When tomato paste, a staple of local cuisine, hit more than \$100

for a four kg (nine pound) can, Iraqis began swapping jokes about brides including it in their dowries.

"People blame the 'vegetable millionaires,' but the real problem was that the farm sector was asked to expand without getting a bigger foreign exchange allocation to buy inputs like fertilisers and machinery," an Iraqi businessman said.

After eight years of sacrifice and deprivation during the war, Iraqis are now looking for a better standard of living.

The government has eased import rules to make consumer goods more widely available, but in a country where a low-level civil servant makes about \$380 a month, few can afford them.

On warm spring evenings in Baghdad, passers-by stare into brightly lit shop windows stocking anything from video sets and washing machines to porcelain ornaments and stuffed animals.

The owners have imported the goods using foreign currency — the government no longer asks how they obtained it — and charge imaginative prices. "You want 2,500 dinars (\$7,500) for a refrigerator?" asks an incredulous shopper. "Yes, it comes with an ice-maker," replies the Egyptian shop assistant calmly.

Many of the goods come via

Kuwait, whose citizens have been buying residential property in Baghdad since the ceasefire, a move which residents say has pushed up house prices.

Iraq's plans to reconstruct its economy after the war are constrained for the moment by a shortage of foreign exchange.

Oil revenues, governed by the vagaries of the market and Iraq's OPEC-set production quota of 2.64 million barrels per day, form up to 95 per cent of state revenue.

From this the government must fund subsidies on food imports, repayments on its estimated non-Arab debt of \$30 to \$5 billion, as well as vital military imports.

Official figures on Iraq's finances are kept secret, but diplomats wonder how the government will find money to implement a planned industrial drive which includes fertiliser, steel, petrochemical, aluminium and vehicle assembly plants.

"All the ministries are looking at expansion plans, but they all depend on the contractor providing financing," one Western diplomat said. "They say they need a two-year breathing space."

Iraqi officials say Baghdad has scored some success in talks on debt repayments with its major creditors.

Canadian investors bid for Jerusalem Post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 19. (Reuters): A Canadian group, including the owner of England's Daily Telegraph, made a surprise bid of \$20 million for the Jerusalem Post, millions more than the next closest bid, newspaper sources said on Tuesday.

Israel's Koor Industries, which owns the small but influential English-language daily, received 10 bids for the newspaper, news editor David Richardson told Reuters.

The Jerusalem Post has been assessed as worth about \$3 million, Israel television reported. It has a daily circulation of 28,000 readers.

The offer by a Canadian group including Daily Telegraph owner Conrad Black was more than twice the bid from British publisher Robert Maxwell and the Canadian Claridge Group headed by Cha-

rlies Bronfman, the newspaper sources said.

A spokesman for Koor, a troubled labour federation-owned conglomerate that is selling off assets as part of a recovery plan, said the company was not committed to selling to the highest bidder.

But a newspaper source who spoke on condition he not be named said Koor would be hard pressed to reject a bid so much higher than others.

Other bids included a management buy-out and an offer by Arye Genger, a US-based Israeli businessman with close ties to hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon.

The Jerusalem Post was founded in 1932. The staff at the left-leaning paper called on Tuesday for editorial independence no matter who won the bidding.

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	CHG
ABBEY LIFE	282.0	0
ADT LTD	165.4	0
ALD LYONS	442.0	0
AMSTRAD	140.0	0
ARMSTRONG	186.0	0
ASDA GP	144.0	0
BAA	373.0	0
BTR	368.0	0
BAT INDS	551.0	0
BARCLAYS	437.0	0
BASS	915.0	0
BEAZER	197.0	0
BEECHAM	620.0	0
BERKSFORD	155.0	0
BICC PLC	480.0	0
BLUE ARMY	92.0	0
BLUE CIRC	523.0	0
BUC GP	494.0	0
BOOTS CO	268.0	0
BR INDS	250.0	0
BR COMM	204.0	0
BR AIRWAY	198.0	0
BR AEROSP	378.0	0
BR GAS	180.0	0
BR LAND	376.0	0
B.P.	284.0	0
B.P.FP	282.0	0
BR STEEL	84.0	0
BR TELCOM	269.0	0
BURMAN OL	549.0	0
BURTON	208.0	0
CABLEWIR	491.0	0
CADBURYS	349.0	0
CALOR GRP	387.0	0
CRLTN R T	880.0	0
COOKSON	312.0	0
COURTAULD	312.0	0
DALGETY	351.0	0
DIXONS	152.0	0
ENG CHINA	526.0	0
ENTER OIL	550.0	0
FTI BACCK	169.0	0
FERRANTI	106.4	0
FISONS	298.0	0
GATEWAY	186.0	0
GEN ACCID	938.4	0
GEN ELEC	235.0	0
GLAXO	395.0	0
GRANADA	376.0	0
GLOBE	168.0	0
GLYNED	314.0	0
GUARD RYL	200.0	0
GNL	374.0	0
GUINNESS	461.0	0
HARRISON A	795.0	0
HARRISON C	186.0	0
HARRISON D	187.0	0
HILLSDOWN	672.0	0
HILLSDOWN	265.0	0

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	885.0	887.0
600 GROUP	117.0	117.0
A.AMER TS	429.0	430.0
A.S.V.ELECT	392.0	400.0
A.S.V.HOLD	276.0	276.0
AAB KENT	100.0	100.0
AAB NLD	390.0	390.0
AARONSON	111.0	112.0
ADISON	46.0	45.0
ADVEST	169.0	168.0
ALEX WRM	190.0	191.0
ALEXON	379.0	380.0
ALLD COLL	140.4	141.0
ALLD IR	322.0	324.0
ALLD LON	144.0	144.0
ALLD PART	73.0	73.0
ALLIANCE	975.0	981.0
AMBER DAY	54.0	54.0
AMEC	435.0	434.0
AMER TST	135.0	137.0
AMERSHAM	498.0	497.0
AMT HLTHC	354.0	354.0
ANGIA SC	398.0	400.0
ANGLIA TV	265.0	267.0
ANSCACHER	77.0	78.0
APPLYARD	182.0	183.0
APV PLC	152.0	153.0
ASHLEY LA	110.0	110.0
AUS REE A	248.0	248.0
AUST REED	392.0	393.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	289.0
AVDEL PLC	99.0	98.0
AVESCO	145.0	145.0
AVIS EUR	384.0	385.0
AVON RUBB	607.0	608.0
B.MEMILL	243.0	243.0
BAILL JAP	527.0	528.0
BALL SHI	94.0	94.0
BAIRD (U)	245.0	245.0
BAIK IRE	312.0	314.0
BAIKER IT	87.0	87.0
BARDON GP	170.0	171.0
BART DEV	194.0	196.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BBA GROUP	186.0	186.0
BEAR BRND	11.4	11.4
BEATTIE J	160.0	160.0
BELHAVEN	49.0	50.0
BELWAY	229.0	228.0
BEWROSE	234.0	233.0
BENLOK W	70.0	71.0
BERKELEY	233.0	232.0
BHR GROUP	136.0	136.0
BK OF SCO	95.0	95.0
BLCK LE 2	12.0	12.0
BL GROUP	439.0	440.0
BINNETT F	91.0	92.0
BOASE MAS	314.0	320.0
BODINGTON	164.0	165.0
BOY SHOP	489.0	491.0
BOY REHR	463.0	463.0

LONDON (Gamma Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	885.0	887.0
600 GROUP	117.0	117.0
A.AMER TS	429.0	430.0
A.S.V.ELECT	392.0	400.0
A.S.V.HOLD	276.0	276.0
AAB KENT	100.0	100.0
AAB NLD	390.0	390.0
AARONSON	111.0	112.0
ADISON	46.0	45.0
ADVEST	169.0	168.0
ALEX WRM	190.0	191.0
ALEXON	379.0	380.0
ALLD COLL	140.4	141.0
ALLD IR	322.0	324.0
ALLD LON	144.0	144.0
ALLD PART	73.0	73.0
ALLIANCE	975.0	981.0
AMBER DAY	54.0	54.0
AMEC	435.0	434.0
AMER TST	135.0	137.0
AMERSHAM	498.0	497.0
AMT HLTHC	354.0	354.0
ANGIA SC	398.0	400.0
ANGLIA TV	265.0	267.0
ANSCACHER	77.0	78.0
APPLYARD	182.0	183.0
APV PLC	152.0	153.0
ASHLEY LA	110.0	110.0
AUS REE A	248.0	248.0
AUST REED	392.0	393.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	289.0
AVDEL PLC	99.0	98.0
AVESCO	145.0	145.0
AVIS EUR	384.0	385.0
AVON RUBB	607.0	608.0
B.MEMILL	243.0	243.0
BAILL JAP	527.0	528.0
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BAIRD (U)	245.0	245.0
BAIK IRE	312.0	314.0
BAIKER IT	87.0	87.0
BARDON GP	170.0	171.0
BART DEV	194.0	196.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BBA GROUP	186.0	186.0
BEAR BRND	11.4	11.4
BEATTIE J	160.0	160.0
BELHAVEN	49.0	50.0
BELWAY	229.0	228.0
BEWROSE	234.0	233.0
BENLOK W	70.0	71.0
BERKELEY	233.0	232.0
BHR GROUP	136.0	136.0
BK OF SCO	95.0	95.0
BLCK LE 2	12.0	12.0
BL GROUP	439.0	440.0
BINNETT F	91.0	92.0
BOASE MAS	314.0	320.0
BODINGTON	164.0	165.0
BOY SHOP	489.0	491.0
BOY REHR	463.0	463.0

LONDON (Delta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	885.0	887.0
600 GROUP	117.0	117.0
A.AMER TS	429.0	430.0
A.S.V.ELECT	392.0	400.0
A.S.V.HOLD	276.0	276.0
AAB KENT	100.0	100.0
AAB NLD	390.0	390.0
AARONSON	111.0	112.0
ADISON	46.0	45.0
ADVEST	169.0	168.0
ALEX WRM	190.0	191.0
ALEXON	379.0	380.0
ALLD COLL	140.4	141.0
ALLD IR	322.0	324.0
ALLD LON	144.0	144.0
ALLD PART	73.0	73.0
ALLIANCE	975.0	981.0
AMBER DAY	54.0	54.0
AMEC	435.0	434.0
AMER TST	135.0	137.0
AMERSHAM	498.0	497.0
AMT HLTHC	354.0	354.0
ANGIA SC	398.0	400.0
ANGLIA TV	265.0	267.0
ANSCACHER	77.0	78.0
APPLYARD	182.0	183.0
APV PLC	152.0	153.0
ASHLEY LA	110.0	110.0
AUS REE A	248.0	248.0
AUST REED	392.0	393.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	289.0
AVDEL PLC	99.0	98.0
AVESCO	145.0	145.0
AVIS EUR	384.0	385.0
AVON RUBB	607.0	608.0
B.MEMILL	243.0	243.0
BAILL JAP	527.0	528.0
BALL SHI	94.0	94.0
BAIRD (U)	245.0	245.0
BAIK IRE	312.0	314.0
BAIKER IT	87.0	87.0
BARDON GP	170.0	171.0
BART DEV	194.0	196.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BBA GROUP	186.0	186.0
BEAR BRND	11.4	11.4
BEATTIE J	160.0	160.0
BELHAVEN	49.0	50.0
BELWAY	229.0	228.0
BEWROSE	234.0	233.0
BENLOK W	70.0	71.0
BERKELEY	233.0	232.0
BHR GROUP	136.0	136.0
BK OF SCO	95.0	95.0
BLCK LE 2	12.0	12.0
BL GROUP	439.0	440.0
BINNETT F	91.0	92.0
BOASE MAS	314.0	320.0
BODINGTON	164.0	165.0
BOY SHOP	489.0	491.0
BOY REHR	463.0	463.0

LONDON (Epsilon Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	885.0	887.0
600 GROUP	117.0	117.0
A.AMER TS	429.0	430.0
A.S.V.ELECT	392.0	400.0
A.S.V.HOLD	276.0	276.0
AAB KENT	100.0	100.0
AAB NLD	390.0	390.0
AARONSON	111.0	112.0
ADISON	46.0	45.0
ADVEST	169.0	168.0
ALEX WRM	190.0	191.0
ALEXON	379.0	380.0
ALLD COLL	140.4	141.0
ALLD IR	322.0	324.0
ALLD LON	144.0	144.0
ALLD PART	73.0	73.0
ALLIANCE	975.0	981.0
AMBER DAY	54.0	54.0
AMEC	435.0	434.0
AMER TST	135.0	137.0
AMERSHAM	498.0	497.0
AMT HLTHC	354.0	354.0
ANGIA SC	398.0	400.0
ANGLIA TV	265.0	267.0
ANSCACHER	77.0	78.0
APPLYARD	182.0	183.0
APV PLC	152.0	153.0
ASHLEY LA	110.0	110.0
AUS REE A	248.0	248.0
AUST REED	392.0	393.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	289.0
AVDEL PLC	99.0	98.0
AVESCO	145.0	145.0
AVIS EUR	384.0	385.0
AVON RUBB	607.0	608.0
B.MEMILL	243.0	243.0
BAILL JAP	527.0	528.0
BALL SHI	94.0	94.0
BAIRD (U)	245.0	245.0
BAIK IRE	312.0	314.0
BAIKER IT	87.0	87.0
BARDON GP	170.0	171.0
BART DEV	194.0	196.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BBA GROUP	186.0	186.0
BEAR BRND	11.4	11.4
BEATTIE J	160.0	160.0
BELHAVEN	49.0	50.0
BELWAY	229.0	228.0
BEWROSE	234.0	233.0
BENLOK W	70.0	71.0
BERKELEY	233.0	232.0
BHR GROUP	136.0	136.0
BK OF SCO	95.0	95.0
BLCK LE 2	12.0	12.0
BL GROUP	439.0	440.0
BINNETT F	91.0	92.0
BOASE MAS	314.0	320.0
BODINGTON	164.0	165.0
BOY SHOP	489.0	491.0
BOY REHR	463.0	463.0

LONDON (Zeta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	885.0	887.0
600 GROUP	117.0	117.0
A.AMER TS	429.0	430.0
A.S.V.ELECT	392.0	400.0
A.S.V.HOLD	276.0	276.0
AAB KENT	100.0	100.0
AAB NLD	390.0	390.0
AARONSON	111.0	112.0
ADISON	46.0	45.0
ADVEST	169.0	168.0
ALEX WRM	190.0	191.0
ALEXON	379.0	380.0
ALLD COLL	140.4	141.0
ALLD IR	322.0	324.0
ALLD LON	144.0	144.0
ALLD PART	73.0	73.0
ALLIANCE	975.0	981.0
AMBER DAY	54.0	54.0
AMEC	435.0	434.0
AMER TST	135.0	137.0
AMERSHAM	498.0	497.0
AMT HLTHC	354.0	354.0
ANGIA SC	398.0	400.0
ANGLIA TV	265.0	267.0
ANSCACHER	77.0	78.0
APPLYARD	182.0	183.0
APV PLC	152.0	153.0
ASHLEY LA	110.0	110.0
AUS REE A	248.0	248.0
AUST REED	392.0	393.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	289.0
AVDEL PLC	99.0	98.0
AVESCO	145.0	145.0
AVIS EUR	384.0	385.0
AVON RUBB	607.0	608.0
B.MEMILL	243.0	243.0
BAILL JAP	527.0	528.0
BALL SHI	94.0	94.0
BAIRD (U)	245.0	245.0
BAIK IRE	312.0	314.0
BAIKER IT	87.0	87.0
BARDON GP	170.0	171.0
BART DEV	194.0	196.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BBA GROUP	186.0	186.0
BEAR BRND	11.4	11.4
BEATTIE J	160.0	160.0
BELHAVEN	49.0	50.0
BELWAY	229.0	228.0
BEWROSE	234.0	233.0
BENLOK W	70.0	71.0
BERKELEY	233.0	232.0
BHR GROUP	136.0	136.0
BK OF SCO	95.0	95.0
BLCK LE 2	12.0	12.0
BL GROUP	439.0	440.0
BINNETT F	91.0	92.0
BOASE MAS	314.0	320.0
BODINGTON	164.0	165.0
BOY SHOP	489.0	491.0
BOY REHR	463.0	463.0

LONDON (Eta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	885.0	887.0
600 GROUP	117.0	117.0
A.AMER TS	429.0	430.0
A.S.V.ELECT	392.0	400.0
A.S.V.HOLD	276.0	276.0
AAB KENT	100.0	100.0
AAB NLD	390.0	390.0
AARONSON	111.0	112.0
ADISON	46.0	45.0
ADVEST	169.0	168.0
ALEX WRM	190.0	191.0
ALEXON	379.0	38

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 20-21, 1989

WASHINGTON: Assistant Treasury Secretary David Mulford denied that the US plan to slash Third-World debt amounts to a belt-out of commercial banks. The 12 billion dir in IMF and world bank funds earmarked to finance reduction of debt principal will not be released unless banks take a loss by agreeing to substantial principal cuts, he said. (XLF0 1920)

New York: Citicorp International Corp chairman Willard Butcher said a number of questions remain to be answered concerning a Third World debt reduction plan proposed last month by the US government. (XLFX 2023)

SAN FRANCISCO: Wells Fargo and Co wrote off 107 mln dir of medium-term and long-term loans to less developed countries during the first quarter, completing its effort to eliminate LDC debt, company president Paul Hazen said. (XLFH 2324)

ZURICH -- Sweden's Swebank is to launch a one billion crown floating rate note at the three-month Stockholm interbank offered rate. It is also issuing a 250 mln crown 11 pct 30-year bond, the first Swedish crown bond with a 30-year maturity for 24 years. (XLP6 2226)

LIMA: Peru has no plans to alter its stand against making repayments on its 800 mln dir debt to the IMF or agreeing to an IMF austerity plan, President Alan Garcia said after a meeting of IMF and Peruvian officials. (XPSX 0440)

WASHINGTON: The Export-Import bank of the United States signed agreements guaranteeing a 103.7 mln dir loan to a Venezuelan power utility to finance US export for a hydroelectric project. (XGLG 2136)

	PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	92	92.50	91.50	MUK IRON	100	105	105
ACC	320	317	312.50	GNFC	42.50	43	41	NAT INDEX	383.49		385.3
ALEN CHEM	--	--	--	--	GRASIM	119	120	119	NIPPON	46	41
ALV NIS	--	--	--	--	GSFC	151.25	152.50	150	NOCIL	97	855
ARI FAB	--	--	--	--	GUJ ALKL	67	64	67	OKRAY	25.50	25
ASHOK LEY	81	82	80	GUJ HEAVY	14	12	14	OSVAL AGRO	77.50	80	
ASIA PAINT	207.50	207.50	207.50	HERO HONDA	30	29	30	PEITCO	26	24.50	
ATLAS COP	48	49	48	HIND CIBA	990	990	980	PUFFER	75	73	
AUTO CORP	83	81	83	HIND COCA	117.50	115	115	PONDS	202.50	195	
BAL AUTO	437.50	435	437.50	HIND LEVER	82.50	82	82	PREM AUTO	58.75	58	
BAR RAYON	460	510	495	HIND MOTOR	45.50	45.50	46.50	RANBAXY	110	105	
BK BOND	150	150	148	HINDALCO	265	295	292	RAY WOOL	78.50	78	
BLOW PLYST	--	--	--	HOECHST	900	890	890	RECKITT	180	172.50	
BON DYE	147.50	150	151	IND ORG	41	40.50	39	RELANCE	149.50	152	
CEN INDEX	748.44	--	745.57	IND RAYON	90	91	91	SESA GAO	45	46	
BURR WEL	220	212.50	222.50	INDROL	317.50	317.50	317.50	SHRI FIB	78	73	
CANSHARE	190	180	190	INGERSOLL	--	380	380	SIEMENS	78	78	
CEN ENKA	2680	2680	2660	ITC	--	79	82	SKF	2830	2820	
CEN SPG	1855	1870	1850	KJ SYN	84	85	84	SPIC	63.50	63.50	
COLGATE	348.50	346.25	348.75	KIN ENGG	187.50	185	187.50	ST HILLS	255	250	
CROMPT GR	85.50	82.5	850	KIR PUMPH	78	76.50	78	ST NEMIN	119.50	116.5	
DALCO	14.00	13	13	KSB PUNJ	--	--	--	TATA OIL	68.75	75	
DEEP FERT	31.50	31.50	32	L AND T	102.50	103	102.50	TATA POW	325	325	
DUNLOP	95.90	95	95	LIPTON	75.50	75	75.50	TCLCO	817.50	817.50	
EI HOTELS	53	52	53	MAC RUSSEL	97.50	97.50	97.50	THAP AGRO	--	--	
ESCORTS	64	63.50	65.25	MA COATS	97	96	97	TISCO	1300	1307	
ESKAYEFG	146.25	146.25	146.25	MANITRIDA	86	104	102	VAM ORG	162	161	
ESSAR SPG	25	24.75	24	MA SHARE	187.50	17.25	17	VARELI	28.50	27.50	
FOOD SPL	191.25	188.75	200	NICO	76.50	640	640	VOLATAS	710	680	
FORDS	53	51	50	MILKFOOD	--	275	290	WINCO	29.50	29	
GARH POLY	78.75	77.50	76.25	MOOI	101	107.50	105.50	ZENITH	65	65	
GE SHIPPING	43	42.75	42.50	MRF TAT	76	455	455	ZUARI AGRO	62.50	65	

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
EG	226.0	223.1
ELI LILLY VR	1845.0	1845.0
ELI LILLY	191.0	191.0
ELI LILLY	305.4	304.2
ELI LILLY	305.0	305.7
ELI LILLY	397.2	395.0
ELI LILLY	399.0	399.0
ELI LILLY	454.0	452.0
ELI LILLY	477.0	482.0
ELI LILLY	526.0	527.0
ELI LILLY	259.5	257.0
ELI LILLY	268.0	269.1
ELI LILLY	697.0	700.0
ELI LILLY	535.5	524.0
ELI LILLY	535.0	559.3
ELI LILLY	336.3	336.8
ELI LILLY	168.0	173.5
ELI LILLY	346.0	346.0
ELI LILLY	401.0	405.0
ELI LILLY	450.0	444.8
ELI LILLY	305.5	306.9
ELI LILLY	241.0	243.0
ELI LILLY	233.0	233.0
ELI LILLY	536.0	534.0
ELI LILLY	206.0	206.0
ELI LILLY	478.0	474.8
ELI LILLY	463.0	461.0
ELI LILLY	172.0	189.5
ELI LILLY	167.5	166.5
ELI LILLY	740.0	745.0
ELI LILLY	171.0	172.3
ELI LILLY	279.0	280.5
ELI LILLY	546.0	547.8
ELI LILLY	428.0	437.0
ELI LILLY	51.60	317.8
ELI LILLY	111.0	71.0
ELI LILLY	709.5	724.5
ELI LILLY	273.5	273.0
ELI LILLY	295.0	310.5
ELI LILLY	457.0	460.0
ELI LILLY	278.0	279.7
ELI LILLY	239.8	242.8
ELI LILLY	332.0	330.5
ELI LILLY	619.0	628.0
ELI LILLY	316.0	323.0
ELI LILLY	541.0	541.0
ELI LILLY	232.0	233.0
ELI LILLY	373.0	368.0
ELI LILLY	299.5	300.5
ELI LILLY	170.5	169.5
ELI LILLY	358.5	359.6

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE			
ALLJINOMOTO	2650	2700	MITSUB CP	1620	1600
AKAI ELEC	745	747	MITSUB EL	1120	1130
AKKI	1510	1510	MITSUB EST	2480	2480
ASAHII GLS	2460	2440	MITSUB HRY	1090	1090
ASAHII OPT	900	901	MITSUB I	1170	1160
BANK TOKYO	1660	1650	MITSUKOSHI	2370	2410
BRIDGESTON	1690	1490	MITSUMI EL	970	979
CANON	1660	1660	NICHICON	1850	1750
CASIO COMP	1410	1430	NIHON CNT	1260	1270
CHUGAI PHM	1520	1530	NIKKO SEC	1820	1790
CITIZEN W	998	1010	NIP ELEC	1790	1830
-ICHI KAN	3310	3350	NIP KOKKAN	939	935
AI NIP IK	919	895	NIP OIL	1740	1730
AI NIP JC	2280	2300	NIP STEEL	942	932
AI NIP PT	1080	1100	NIP YUSEN	1060	1030
AI-NIP TO	940	935	NIS MOTOR	1510	1540
AICEL	1260	1210	NOMURA SEC	3300	3310
AIKAWA	2000	2000	OHRA CO	1080	1080
AIKAWA SEC	2000	2000	OLYMPUS	1240	1250
AKIRA WFG	2100	2090	OMONTA CO	1510	1530
ALSAI	1920	1940	ONYOMER	3180	3180
ALSAI	1420	1430	RENKAN	1020	1000
AMUITS	3400	3470	RENCH	1210	1230
AMU BANK	3560	3640	SANKYO	2400	2410
AMU PHOTO	1660	1660	SANTO ELEC	918	925
AMUITA CP	2100	2120	SEIYU ST	2090	2090
ATACHI	1510	1520	SEIKITSU PB	1760	1790
BENTON	1890	1900	SHARP	1290	1300
BESTAN	2270	2330	SHIEMO	1680	1670
BU TO YOKADO	3510	3550	SORY	670	670
BUA SYN RU	1470	1390	SUNYOMO	1400	1430
BUJAP AIR	16100	16000	TAISEI	1780	1780
BUJAP NET	1300	1210	TAISIRO HRN	1290	1290
BUJAPINA	2350	2380	TAKEDA CH	2320	2300
KANSAI EL	4310	4330	TEIJI	902	874
KAO SOAP	1640	1650	TOK NEW IX	460.53	464.62
KAWASAKI H	1070	1070	TOKIO MRC	2010	2020
KIRIN BREW	966	950	TOKYO ELE	1260	1260
KOMATSU	1950	1940	TOKYO GAS	1100	1120
KURATO LTD	1330	1350	TOKYO POWR	5830	5900
KYOCERA	1270	1280	TORAY IND	1040	990
MAKITA EL	4680	4750	TOSHIBA L	1220	1220
MARU	2670	2680	TOTO	2100	2080
MATSUDA EI	2360	2360	TOYO KOGYO	974	959
MATSUTA EL	0	2660	TOYOTA MOT	2470	2480
MATSUBA	0	1060	YAMADA	1490	1500
			YAMAGUCHI	3350	3360
			YAMAGUCHI	1790	1820

TOKYO STOCKS FIRM TO CLOSING HIGH IN DULL TRADE
 TOKYO, APRIL 19, REUTER - SHARE PRICES FIRMED TO A RECORD
 CLOSE AFTER FLUCTUATING IN NARROW, FEATURELESS TRADE. BUYING
 WAS SPARKED BY WALL STREET'S SURGE TO POST-CRASH HEIGHTS ON
 TUESDAY ON OPTIMISM THAT THE FEDERAL RESERVE WOULD NOT HAVE TO
 PUSH INTEREST RATES HIGHER, BROKERS SAID.
 NEWS OF AN INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES AND A DROP IN
 HOUSING STARTS IN THE U.S. IN MARCH CALLED INFLATION CONCERNS.
 BUT BUYING MOMENTUM FIZZLED OUT DUE TO A MUTED REACTION BY THE
 YEN BOND MARKET AND THE ABSENCE OF INSTITUTIONS AS BUYERS.
 THE NIKKEI 225 INDEX FIRMED 42.17 POINTS, OR 0.13 PCT, TO A
 RECORD CLOSE OF 33,363.83.
 THE PREVIOUS CLOSING HIGH, SET ON APRIL 5, WAS 33,360.79.
 THE KEY 225-SHARE NIKKEI INDEX FIRMED 13.33 POINTS ON TUESDAY.
 THE U.S. ECONOMIC DATA PUSHED THE DOLLAR BELOW 132 YEN IN
 NEW YORK OVERNIGHT. IT TRADED NARROWLY IN TOKYO TODAY. A
 STRONGER YEN MEANS LESS CHANCE OF IMPORTED INFLATION IN JAPAN
 AND SO LESS LIKELIHOOD OF INTEREST RATE RISES TO CONTAIN IT.
 YEN BOND PRICES OPENED ABOVE WEDNESDAY'S CLOSE IN RESPONSE
 TO THE YEN'S RISE, BUT LOST STEAM ON LINGERING EXPECTATIONS OF
 INTEREST RATE RISES FROM A POSSIBLE RISE IN DOMESTIC PRICES.
 IN THE BROAD MARKET, RISING ISSUES EDGED FALLS BY 466 TO
 431 WITH 165 ISSUES UNCHANGED.
 "THE TOKYO MARKET WILL FROM TIME TO TIME PAY ATTENTION TO
 WALL STREET, BUT AT THE MOMENT HAS MORE DOMESTIC CONCERNS TO
 WORRY ABOUT," SAID GEORGE NIINO, A SENIOR SALESMAN AT SBCI
 SECURITIES (ASIA) LTD.
 "TODAY'S PATTERN IS SIMILAR TO PAST DAYS," HE SAID.
 THAT PATTERN HAS INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS BUYING AGGRESSIVELY
 IN A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WHILE INSTITUTIONS REMAIN Sidelined
 ON CONCERN OVER DOMESTIC INTEREST RATES AND THE POLITICAL
 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECRUIT SCANDAL.
 VOLUME ROSE TO 1.4 BILLION SHARES FROM 1.1 BILLION DUE TO
 CONCENTRATED TRADE IN LARGE CAPITAL STEELS AND SHIPBUILDERS.

HONG KONG, APRIL 19, REUTER - HONG KONG STOCKS CLOSED FIRMER AFTER A SESSION OF DAY-TRADING, WHICH SAW STRONG MORNING GAINS FOLLOWED BY PROFIT-TAKING.

"THERE'S NOT MUCH LONG-TERM INVESTMENT GOING ON AT THE MOMENT. BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS PLAYERS ARE CURBING, WHICH IS GOOD FOR US AND WHY YOU SEE THE HEAVY TURNOVER," A BROKER SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX GAINED 28.66 TO 3,164.09, OFF A HIGH OF 3,184.

TURNOVER WAS 1.91 BILLION H.K. DLSR FROM TUESDAY'S 1.54

	OPNG	CLSG	JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.47	2.47
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.85	1.86	JOR PAPER CARBORG	3.75	3.60
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.			JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.65	3.64
ARAB BANK	148.0	148.2	JOR PIPES MANUFAC	1.95	1.90
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.56	4.55	JOR PRESS/PUBLISN.	1.79	1.72
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40
ARAB INSURANCE	1.09	1.08	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.		
ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.			JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.11
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.05	1.01	JOR SELPHO CHEM.		
ARAB INTER. NOTELS			JOR WOOD INDUSTRY		
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.35	2.30	JOR WORSTED MLL	5.00	5.00
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	0.45	0.43	JOR, KUWAIT AGR	0.91	0.91
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.			JOR. PETROLIUM REF		
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	1.00	1.00	JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP.	2.30	2.30
BANK OF JORDAN	15.25	15.20	JORDAN GULF REAL		
BEIT AL MAL/BEITNA			JORDAN DAIRY		
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF BANK	1.28	1.24
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	30.00	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JORDAN INSURANCE	3.06	3.10
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS			JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	2.00	2.00
DAR ALDAWA DV/INV.	2.46	2.41	JORDAN KUWAIT BK	1.42	1.41
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.74	0.73	JORDAN TANNIN	2.05	2.06
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71	MACH/ENGINE/MAIN		
GARAGE OWNERS OF	4.55	4.60	HAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	MTD EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.35	1.27	MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.42	0.40
GENERAL MINING	2.10	2.10	MIDDEL EAST INS	2.03	2.13
HIMMER HERRNOLS	0.75	0.75	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.75	0.75
HOLD LAND INS.	1.44	1.44	NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	2.10	2.15
IND. /MATCH JEMCO			NAT/CABEL/WIRE/INF		
INDSTRL DEVLPT BNK	1.63	1.63	NATIONAL AMLIA INS	1.28	.34
INDSTRL/COM/AGR.			NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.97	0.97
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.88	0.88
INTERCOM/INVEST	0.13	0.15	NATIONAL STEEL	2.92	2.91
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.50	0.50	ORIGINAL BATTERY	2.25	0.28
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	PETRA BAK	2.35	2.50
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	1.77	1.76	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35	0.35
J. TOUR-SUP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80	PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.10	1.11
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29	PRECAST CONCRETE		
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET			RIADIA INDUSTRIAL	1.91	1.91
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.90	1.90	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.64	0.64
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	SHIPPING LINES		
JOR ELECTRIC POWER			SPINING MEVING		
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	THE HOUSING BANK	1.87	1.89
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.00	0.99	UNID INSURANCE	1.16	1.16
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	3.20	3.13
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.41	2.37	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.68
			WOOLEN INDUSTRIES		

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				BC-A	79.00	79.50	79.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-A	.29	.30	.30
ANS	2.00	20.25	19.25	LC-B	.30	.31	.31
ANS	2.65	2.70	2.55	PM-A	.31	.32	.31
PLOT	31.50	32.00	31.50	PM-B	.32	.33	.32
GLD	295.00	297.50	297.50	OIL SECTOR			
KPSI-A	3.35	3.40	3.40	BP-A	.014	.015	
KPSI-B	4.15			BP-B	.015	.016	.015
SHC-A	208.00	211.00	205.00	LRC-A	.0032	.0036	
SHC-B	260.00		262.50	LRC-B	.0032	.0036	
MINING SECTOR				OPN-A	.044	.045	.046
APX-A	.023	.024	.022	OPN-B	.045	.046	.047
APX-B	.023	.024	.023	OV-A	.04	.041	.041
AT-A	52.00	52.50	52.00	OV-B	.042	.043	.042

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR							
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	BC-A	78.50	79.00	79.00
CNC-A	208.00	209.00	204.00	BC-B	86.00	90.00	
CNC-B	265.00	270.00		LC-A	.29	.30	.30
Q-TIRE	39.00		39.00	LC-B	.30	.31	.31
PLDT	292.50	295.00	295.00	ZIP	.013	.014	.014
UNSCOR-A	2.65	2.70	2.55	OIL SECTOR			
GLC-A *	20.00	20.25	19.50	STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN
GLC-B	31.00	31.50	31.50	BP-A	.014	.015	.015
PER-A *	2.40	2.42	2.32	LRC-A	.0032	.016	.015
PER-B *	2.46	2.60		LRC-B	.0032	.0038	.0032
MINING SECTOR				LRC-B	.0034		
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	OPW-A	.045	.046	.045
APX-A	.025	.024	.022	OPW-B	.046	.047	.047
APX-B	.025	.022		OW-A	.041	.042	.041
OW-A	.045		.042	OW-B	.047	.043	.042

OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	1,392,985	14,232,465	1108.42	UP 23.80
MINING	519,514,500	25,984,680	5008.91	UP 86.36
OILS	394,050,000	10,209,450	7.088	UP 0.028
TOTAL	914,957,485	50,426,595	956.30	UP 14.19

NAME	LAST	PR	CL	G KENT	7	KECK SENG	188	18
ADEF A				G LUMBER	139	13	KILLINGHA	35
ADEF B				G TOWN		10	M CEMENT	191
ALJINOMOTO				G U HDLGS	----	10	M CONT	162
ALIND AND	116	11	11	GANDA HDG	38.5	37.	M FEEDML	----
ALIND PROP	30	11	11	G INC CORP	75.5	7	M FLOUR	285
ANCOL	170	17	17	GENTING	570	57	M GLASS	242
BERJAYA	132	12	12	GEOR T RT			M TIN PR	78.5
BOUSTEAD	147	14	14	GOLD COGN	195	19	M UTD IND	236
CBALBERG		14	14	GSI	139	13	M UTD WFG	112
CCN		35	35	GUINNESS	374	38	M SBITA	63
CEREBOS	550	54	54	GULA	----	28.	M WATA	101
CHEN IMD	308	31	31	GUTHRIE	46	4	MAGNUM	272
CK TANG	412	40	40	H L IND.	240	24	MALEX IND	675
COLD STOR	370	37	37	HARIMAU	118	12	METRO	69
CS HDLGS	45.5	44.	44.	HAW PAR	320	32	MULPHATIND	55
DICI		49	49	INCINACE	585	59	MULTIPUR	115
DMTB BID	145	14	14	INNO-PAC	169	16	MURATA100	----
DUTA CON	----	2	2	INNOVEST	109	10	M ST TIME	332
DUTCIBABY		42	42	INSAS	41	4	NB TYBER	101
				INTRACO	278	28	PEGI	47
ELEC MAGN	209	20	20	J ENGRG	310	30	ROBINSON	281
ESSO ORD	358	36	36	J SHPYARD	555	54	ROTH IND	20
FU YAN S.	248	24	24	JACKS LTD.		12	S FODDER	371
F A C B		2	2	JC ENT	107	10	S PACIFIC	33
F E SWTP	352	35	35	JC-NPH	124	12	S PRESS	675
F&N ORD	1010	101	101	JONAS HDG	46.5	46.	S SHIP	710
FEB CABLE	----	6	6	K G HDLGS		11	S WANG M	194
FED FLOUR	520	45	45	K KELLAS		22	SANTO	100
FIMA BID		30	30	KAMUNTING	95	9	SHELL ORD	510
PIJUTEC		65	65	KR SANG		10	ST STNSHP	280

SINGAPORE STOCKS CLOSE MIXED IN HEAVY VOLUME

SINGAPORE, APRIL 19, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED MIXED AFTER LATE PROFIT-TAKING EMERGED TO WIPE OUT THE MORNING'S GAINS IN HECTIC TRADING, BROKERS SAID.

THE STRAITS TIMES INDUSTRIAL INDEX, WHICH ROSE 9.20 POINTS AT MIDDAY TO A NEW POST-CRASH HIGH OF 1,266.77, FELL BACK TO CLOSE 0.72 POINT LOWER AT 1,256.85.

ADVANCES OUTPACED DECLINES BY 119 TO 92. TURNOVER SMELLED TO 148.7 MLN SHARES FROM TUESDAY'S 133.0 MLN. BROKERS SAID THERE WAS WIDESPREAD BUYING INTEREST AT THE OUTSET FOLLOWING A SHARP 41.61-POINT GAIN ON WALL STREET, BUT CAUTIOUS INVESTORS TOOK PROFITS IN THE AFTERNOON IN THE OVERBOUGHT MARKET.

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.950	1005000	38
GULF BANK	0.375	0.380	0.380	0.375	38000	7
COMMERCIAL BK	0.280	0.285	0.285	0.280	1670000	48
AHLI BANK	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	21000	1
B.K.M.E	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	10000	1
K.R.E.B.	0.330	0.335	0.335	0.335	170000	6
BURGAN BANK	0.290	0.295	0.295	0.290	1810000	54
K.F.HOUSE	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.480	90000	6
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KMT INV. CO.	0.095	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
K.I.F.C.	0.068	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
COM.FACILITIES	0.425	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
AHLIAH INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
I.F.A.	0.048	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
INV. PEARL KMT	0.087	-----	-----	-----	-----	----
NATIONAL INV.	0.069	0.065	0.065	0.064	147500	2

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.25872	0.25847
Sterling	0.49400	0.49700
Dm.	0.15500	0.15640
S. fr.	0.17700	0.17800
F. fr	0.04582	0.04615
l. tira	0.0002112	0.0002131
Japan yen	0.0021180	0.002203
Bh. dinar	0.76600	0.76800
UAE dh.	0.07850	0.07888
S. riyal	0.07700	0.07729
Q. riyal	0.07930	0.07950

KUWAIT, April 19, (KUNA): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	9	9-7/16
3 months	9	9-7/16
6 months	8-15/16	9-7/16
1 year	8-15/16	9-7/16

MEXICO CITY, April 19. (AP): Mexico's education secretary summoned leaders of a dissident teachers movement and the government-backed union Tuesday in an attempt to resolve a teacher's strike for higher pay and the removal of corrupt union chiefs.

thousands of Mexico's public school teachers cut classes for a second day to push for a 100 per cent pay increase and greater democracy in their union, which with 1.1 million members is the largest in Mexico and one of the biggest in Latin America.

Secretary Manuel Bartlett summoned leaders of the National Education Workers' Co-ordinate, a dissident group within the National Education Workers Union, and the government-backed union leadership, a strike activist said on condition of anonymity.

The co-ordinate has rejected a government offer to increase pay by 10 per cent and benefits by 18 per cent.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari acknowledges that teachers are badly underpaid, but says his hard-pressed government cannot afford to double salaries.

The dissidents claimed the support of about 500,000 of Mexico's 1.1 million public school teachers when the walk-out began Monday.

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STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE	NESTLE PS	1350	1340
BAER HDGS	11900	11950	DE BUEHR I	1170	1180
BALCOISE PS	2605	2600	DE BUEHR N	402	410
BBC I A	3565	3540	DE BUEHR P	363	370
BK LEU I	2950	2975	ROCHE BABY	15375	15300
BK LEU M	2575	2550	ROCHE I	45000	44000
BK LEU PS	358	355	RUECKVER I	10625	10450
BCPV	0	1150	RUECKVER N	8230	8260
CIB GEIG I	3430	3440	RUECKVER P	1765	1740
CIB GEIG N	2860	2815	RY TR BK	1125	1130
CIB GEIG P	2690	2665	S BHKGS I	3255	3345
CKKW	0	1300	S BHKGS N	700	725
CRED SUI I	2860	2915	S BHKGS P	117.00	119.00
CRED SUI N	620	623	S BHKVRN I	324	328
EG LAUFEN	1710	1710	S BHKVRN N	299	301
ELEKTROMAT	2960	2970	S BHKVRN P	294	295
ENS CHEN I	4625	4650	SANDOZ I	10775	10800
GLOBUS I	6200	6200	SANDOZ N	9450	9450
GLOBUS N	0	6300	SANDOZ PS	1995	2000
GLOBUS PS	1090	1015	SULZER N	5625	5650
JACOBUS I	7475	7475	SULZER PS	473	462
JACOBUS N	1435	1430	SVB	1720	1735
JACOBUS S P	644	644	SWISSAIR	1040	1050
JUEL I	2450	2425	SWISSAIR N	980	960
JUEL PS	351	353	V THUR I	4780	4700
LANDIS N	1310	1310	V THUR PS	3750	3740
LANDIS PS	118.00	121.00	ZURICH I	751	742
			ZURICH N	5075	5040
			ZURICH P	6210	6175

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	11-1/2 1/4	12-11/16 9/16	13 12-7/8
FFT	5.80/90	5.95/6.05	6.30/40
PAR	8-1/4 3/8	8-5/16 7/16	8-9/16 11/16
ZLR	5-7/8 6-1/8	6-1/8 6-3/8	6-1/8 6-3/8
BRX	7.85	7-15/16 1/16	8-1/16 3/16
ROM	11-1/4 12-5/8	11-7/8 12-3/8	12-1/8 12-5/8
AMS	6.12/25	6.43/53	6.60/70
TOK	FOUR 4.2/32	4.17/52 19/32	4.20/52 22/32

WASHINGTON, April 19. (AP) Congress was told yesterday that the United States has suspended all new initiatives on a major subsidy to US farm exports because it is costing US taxpayers money.

Subsidies to farm exports are a major cause of trade dissension between the United States and the 12 governments of the European Economic Community.

"The claim is now that the (export enhancement programme) is no longer budget neutral," Thomas O. Kay, administrator of the US foreign Agricultural Service said.

According to Kay the suspension was ordered by the Office of Management and Budget, a powerful agency that reports directly to President George Bush. Kay said new initiatives in the programme are being halted pending a review.

Kay said he hopes to review will be completed soon, but that

the Bush cabinet may have to decide if the subsidy programme can resume.

"If you can't do it and the cabinet can't do it, then we'll try the Congress," said Sen. Quentin Burdick.

Burdick was chairing the subcommittee on agriculture in the Senate appropriations Committee.

A High Agriculture Department official had said in testimony submitted to the meeting that the US government can still subsidize exports of farm products despite the recent international agreement to reduce subsidies.

"The recent mid-term agreement on agriculture in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations does not limit our ability to counter unfair trade practices with the (export enhancement programme)," said William C. Bailey, Undersecretary of Agriculture for International Affairs.

Move to overcome crippling strike

Emergency declared at three Indian ports

NEW DELHI, April 19, (Reuters): Port authorities at India's three main ports have declared a state of emergency to overcome a crippling strike by dock workers at 10 major ports, a transport ministry spokesman said today.

The spokesman said a state of emergency has been declared at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Other ports have been authorised to take similar measures.

Worst

Under emergency rules port authorities can hire unregistered workers to handle cargo.

The strike which began on Monday has virtually paralysed the country's ports and

reduced exports to a trickle, port officials said.

The New Delhi government has already moved navy engineers backed by soldiers and paramilitary troops into some of the 10 ports worst affected in the strike by nearly 300,000 workers.

The spokesman said port officials were trying to get cargoes handled with the help of staff from shipping lines, but otherwise no unregistered workers had been hired so far.

The military's job is to keep essential commodities such as oil moving into the country. Their presence so far has not produced any violent reaction from the

strikers, but port officials said hiring outside workers to move cargo could spark trouble.

"There will be resistance to this move from striking workers, but we are prepared to face it," said R.K. Bansali, a senior official of the Bombay Port Trust.

Deal

The workers are demanding a four-year pay deal that would include a 25 per cent wage increase. The government has offered a pay hike of just under 16 per cent.

The last dock strike in 1984 went on for 26 days. The government said it was impossible to estimate the damage it

caused to Indian trade, but the losses were huge.

A lengthy port strike could make it hard for the government to achieve its aim of doubling exports in the current financial year ending next March from Rs 200 billion (\$13.5 billion) in the previous year.

Already some exporters are gloomy. Calcutta exporter Lalit Toolsid said a long strike could force the closure of jute mills, an important local industry. He told Reuters the industry had contracts to deliver 40,000 tonnes of jute to the Soviet Union between April and June.

"If the strike continues we will be badly hit. Some of the jute mills might have to close down," he said.

\$65m for refinery expansion

SINGAPORE, April 19, (OPECNA): Singapore's oil companies are investing \$65 million to expand their refinery and oil storage facilities over the next three years.

Industry sources said the Singapore Refinery Company (SRC) would invest more than \$50 million in four major projects, involving expansion of refining and storage facilities and construction of a power generating plant.

SCR is jointly owned by the Singapore Petroleum Company (SPC) British Petroleum and Calsonic.

SPC is also planning to invest some \$15 million in the expansion of its oil storage terminal on the West Coast of the island republic.

The terminal's current storage capacity of 20,000 tonnes will be increased to 120,000 tonnes. The growing economies of Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan and China have contributed significantly to the increased demand for petroleum products from Singapore refineries, the sources said.

Petrochemical firm signs pact

TEHRAN, April 19, (OPECNA): The Isfahan Petrochemical Complex has signed an agreement with the Japanese Nissho Iwai company for purchase of equipment for its aromatic plant unit.

Under a 10-year plan drawn up by the government for the development of the national oil industry, the new unit will produce organic chain compounds such as benzene.

Earlier, the National Iranian Petrochemical Industries Company denied a report circulated by a Japanese news agency claiming that the Iranian firm was buying equipment from a Japanese company for building a petrochemical plant in Isfahan.

Turks develop a yen for the yen

ISTANBUL, April 19, (Reuters): Street urchins in the Istanbul bazaar are doing it.

Carpet merchants with cups of tea are doing it.

Even tycoons in dark suits are doing it.

Studying Japanese, that is. More than 80 senior Japanese businessmen met today with Turkish business leaders eager to attract investment from Tokyo and boost exports ranging from carpets to bottled water.

"They are cautious, but I think the Japanese have decided to come (to invest)," said Sarik Tara, head of Turkey's Enka Construction Company and leader of the Turkish side at the Japan-Turkey joint economic committee meeting.

The two-day annual meeting is the third and biggest of its kind as business relations blossom. Since 1985, Japan's imports from Turkey have risen fivefold to over \$200 million a year and Japanese exports to Turkey have tripled to about \$600 million.

Four joint ventures and 20 representative offices have been established. Japanese officials say 20 more companies are studying whether to invest in projects from hotels and golf courses to car, gas lighter or zipper plants.

Confidence

Tara said conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal was one key to Japanese confidence in Turkey and Japanese businessmen said they were worried that he faced probable early general elections after a crushing defeat in nationwide municipal polls in March.

"Political stability is very

Bid to boost exports



Turgut Ozal

important for Japanese business," said Hideaki Katsuta, Istanbul representative of the state Japan external trade organisation JETRO.

Katsuta said other problems included Turkey's 64 per cent inflation, quality control, distance from Japan and bureaucratic red tape that "make people confused and just want to give up."

Such problems are balanced with a longer-term view of the possibilities of Turkey's undeveloped, youthful and potentially highly profitable market of 55 million people.

"Since it began three years ago, I sense that Japanese business is becoming increasingly interested in the Turkish market," Japanese embassy Counsellor Michio Hamano said.

Turkey, bordering the Middle East and also an applicant to join the European Economic Community, is also seen as a good possible regional base with well-sited free economic zones.

Bridgestone made the biggest Japanese investment in Turkey to date in 1988, paying \$60 million for a joint venture stake in a Turkish tyre company now known as Brissa that plans to make tyres for the Middle East and African markets.

"It may take five years to compete fully with Japan in these markets. But the Turkish labour force is as good as any," Brissa executive co-ordinator Makoto Itoh told Reuters.

Japanese business is being backed with export credits and government soft loans, but Japan is still the new boy on the block in Turkey, where US, West German and other Western companies have been doing business for decades.

Japan's 20 company representations are still just two per cent of foreign companies here and capital invested is only three per cent of total foreign capital investment.

"Most activity is part of the Japanese traders' global business, like buying Turkish hazelnuts to sell in West Germany, and Brazilian iron to sell in Turkey," JETRO's Katsuta said.

But major car builders Toyota and Nissan are believed to be studying whether they should follow Isuzu in building car factories in Turkey, Japanese sources said.

Ibrahim Cakir, head of the foreign capital department of Turkey's State Planning Organisation, said Japan's share of foreign capital invested in Turkey would triple to eight or nine per cent of the total within a few years.

Saudis set up committee to promote exports

RIYADH, April 19, (OPECNA): The Saudi government has set up a special committee to promote the kingdom's exports and to take part in a long-term financing programme for member countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

The \$750 million programme was set up last year to help increase trade and commercial exchanges between IDB member states. Saudi Arabia has contributed 52 million to the programme's resources. So far, 20 countries have benefited from it.

The committee is made up of officials of the ministry of Industry and Electricity, the Ministry of Commerce, the Saudi Monetary Agency (SAMA) and trade and industry representatives.

Requests

The committee will also review and evaluate financing requests made by Saudi exporters and submit its recommendations to the IDB. The Saudi Investment Bank has agreed to act as the committee's technical secretary.

The Saudi government has also extended full support to the initiative of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) to set up a new programme. The AMF governing board approved \$500 million for the new programme when it last met in Amman.

Takaishi indicted in scandal

TOKYO, April 19, (Reuters): Japanese prosecutors today charged a former vice-minister of education with taking bribes in the widening Recruit scandal, NHK National Television reported.

Kunio Takaishi, 59, has been in detention since his arrest on March 28 on suspicion of receiving bribes from the Recruit publishing and telecommunications group.

NHK said former Recruit chairman Hiromasa Ezoe and another Recruit executive, already charged in connection with a number of other alleged bribery cases, were indicted again on charges of bribing Takaishi.

A spokesman for the Tokyo prosecutors' office declined to confirm the report.

Thirteen people have so far been arrested in the Recruit affair, which has also resulted in the resignation of three cabinet ministers.

NHK and newspaper reports said the prosecutor's next target for investigation was politicians who received money from Recruit.

Media reports have said 13 politicians were known to have received shares from the company either in their names or those of their secretaries, including Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, his predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone and Shintaro Abe, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

GPA unveils biggest ever aircraft order

LONDON, April 19, (AP): GPA Group Ltd., the world's biggest aircraft leasing company, today confirmed that it has ordered or placed options on 308 aircraft valued at about \$17 billion, the largest airplane order ever made.

Boeing Co. of the United States is the major beneficiary of the orders, GPA said. It said it will buy 182 Boeing airplanes for \$9.4 billion.

GPA said it will buy 92 of the Seattle-based manufacturer's 737 narrow-bodied, twin-jet planes, 50 Boeing 757 narrow-bodied twin-jet models, and 40 Boeing 767 twin-engine wide-bodied jets.

In addition, GPA said it will purchase for \$3.1 billion 64 McDonnell Douglas Corp. MD-80 narrow-body twin-jets, and 8 McDonnell Douglas Corp. MD-11 wide-body, three-engine jets, it said.

The company announced earlier Tuesday in Paris that it also was ordering \$4.3 billion worth of airplanes from Airbus Industrie, the European consortium. It will buy 30 of Airbus Industrie's A320s; 10 A330s; and two A340s. It said it also has placed options to take a further 10 A330s and two A340s.

GPA said the engine suppliers include CFM, a joint venture of General Electric Co. of the United States and France's Societe Nationale d'Etudes et de Construction de Moteurs d'Aviation; General Electric; United Technologies Corp's Pratt and Whitney; Rolls-Royce PLC; and International Aero Engines, jointly owned by United Technologies, Daimler-Benz AG and Rolls-Royce.

Orders

The company said last week that it planned to announce such orders on Tuesday.

The previous largest order was Delta Air Lines' \$10.5-billion order and options on 225 Boeing and McDonnell Douglas airplanes last September. GPA's order reflects the importance of aircraft leasing companies, which account for about one-fifth of all aircraft orders. It also underscores the growth of the airline industry plus airlines' concern with replacing their ageing fleets.

Leasing companies provide airplanes to airlines which increasingly don't want, or can't have the money, to buy the airplanes themselves.

Some airlines have complained that the leasing companies' role in the industry has boosted airplane prices and is exacerbating the problem of long waiting lists for aircraft.

GPA, based in Shannon, Ireland and formerly called Guinness Peat Aviation, is privately owned by several companies, including the airlines Air Canada and Aer Lingus. The carriers hold stakes of 16 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

GPA currently owns or leases 172 aircraft, with a net value of about \$3 billion, operated by 64 carriers in 32 countries.

Housing starts down

US consumer prices rise

WASHINGTON, April 19, (Reuters): US inflation at the consumer level rose modestly in March and housing starts fell sharply, the government said on Tuesday, supporting a spate of recent reports that suggest the economy's growth rate is slowing.

The Labour Department reported the consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.5 per cent last month, compared with a 0.4 per cent gain in February.

Drop

So far this year the CPI, the most widely used measure of inflation, has risen at a 6.1 per cent annual rate, the largest quarterly gain in two years. The March increase, which was expected, represents a rise from the 4.4 per cent inflation rate of the past two years.

But the gain was not as severe as some analysts had feared a few

months ago. Moreover, the Commerce Department's report of a 5.4 per cent drop in new housing construction last month, after a 12 per cent fall in February, reinforced a picture of an easing economy.

The figures sent the stock and bond markets sharply higher.

Added to a host of other signs that the economy is cooling under the weight of higher interest rates, economists said the inflation rate will probably slow in a few months. The government has recently reported sluggish retail sales, lower factory order rates and an easier industrial operating rate.

But economists said inflation is likely to get worse before it gets better. "What we have is a stubborn underlying inflation rate that will be hard to get rid of," said economist Cynthia Latta of Data Resources, a forecasting firm.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 40.51 points at mid-afternoon, while the benchmark 30-year treasury bond was up more than a point, depressing its yield to 8.94 per cent from 9.06.

A slower-moving economy, which the Fed has been trying to bring about with higher interest rates, will help ease growing inflationary pressures, economists said.

The March decline in new construction put housing starts at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.40 million. There were 1.49 million units started last year.

Khanpuri, Nireshwalia attend NRI meeting

Gulf Indian economic seminar planned

THE meeting of the first co-ordination committee of the Gulf NRI Forums under the chairmanship of, Nevin Meghiani was held at Diplomat Hotel, Bahrain on April 13 and 14. It was attended by Ram Buxani chairman of the UAE Forum, Mr Russi Patel, adviser, UAE Forum and member of the NRI Consultative Committee at the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, C.S.S. Khanpuri chairman of the Kuwait Forum, Nevin Meghiani president of the Bahrain Forum and Deepak Vaish vice-president of the Bahrain Forum.

The committee decided to rename the co-ordination committee as the "Co-ordination Committee of the Gulf Indian Economic Forums". It was also suggested that the individual forums should review the possibility of examining their forums to keep in line with wider connotation.

The co-ordination committee will meet three times a year rotating the location between the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain.

The chairman of the co-ordination committee will also rotate along with location and the

secretary of the co-ordination committee would be nominated for one year commencing with this meeting.

Nevin Meghiani was nominated as the first chairman of this committee and Rajen Nireshwalia was nominated as the first secretary.

Keeping in mind the main aim of co-ordinating the efforts of the Gulf forums in promoting the economic interests of overseas Indians it was decided that all decisions will be taken with the consensus of the forums.

Russi Patel who is one of the Gulf members of the NRI Consultative Committee pointed out that the communications issued at the first and second Gulf NRI seminars were put to the NRI Consultative Committee as a review paper by Patel which is already under active consideration by the government.

The co-ordination committee felt that it would not be prudent to officially participate in the seminars hosted by Network Consultancy Services, Hyderabad and the 1st Convention of Overseas Indians in New York instead leaving it to the members to participate at their own initiatives.

The committee tentatively decided that the third seminar of the Gulf NRIs should be named as the "Third Gulf Indians Economic Seminar" and would be held at New Delhi during the last week of January 1990. In future, yearly Gulf seminars will be jointly conducted by the three forums of the Gulf.

The committee decided to institute an "Indian Journalist of the Year" trophy and award of Rs 10,000 for outstanding work done in promoting the image of the country abroad. A panel of eminent Indian journalists would nominate the person for the award.

The first award would be presented during the Third Gulf Seminar.

The initiative taken by Ram Buxani through the UAE Forum to secure certain seats for children of Gulf overseas Indians for higher education in India will also be followed up by Bahrain and Kuwait Forums.

The next meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of the Gulf Indians Economic Forum would be held in Dubai during the third week of September 1989.

Moscow to boost auto production

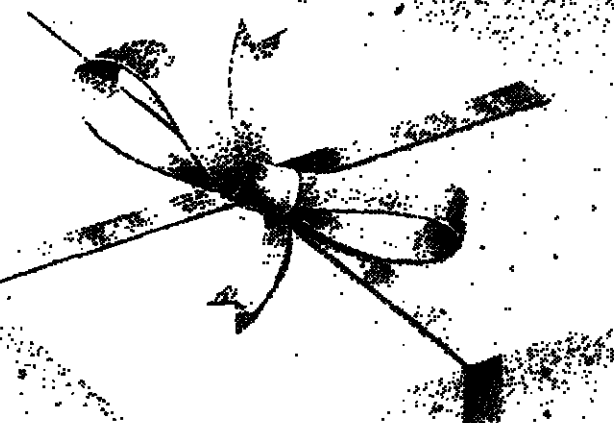
NEW YORK, April 19, (KUNA): The Soviet Union is laying the groundwork to double the country's annual auto production by the year 2000, according to a report published Monday by Automotive Industries' Insider (AI), a well-informed newsletter.

Most of the increase is slated for the Soviet home market, but it will also add to the number of vehicles the Soviets can export.

The Soviet auto industry is comprised of five different auto companies that built 1,115,000 cars in 1988. All are seeking prospective partners, including General Motors, Fiat, Ford, Mitsubishi and Suzuki, to help auto production in the USSR, AI said.

"This production increase is a direct result of perestroika which in this case is designed to meet domestic demand for cars to boost hard currency through exports," the newsletter said.

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Campaign to attract investment

ALGIERS, April 19, (OPECNA): Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company, has launched a world-wide campaign to attract international oil companies to invest in oil exploration in the country.

In the last three years, five concessions have been awarded, two of them to the French group CFP-Total for prospecting in the Hassi Messaoud and El Agreb regions, involving an investment of \$76 million.

A firm of British consultants commissioned by Sonatrach to

prepare a comprehensive report on the country's hydrocarbon wealth, has already completed the study, which is entitled "Algeria's geology and perspectives in hydrocarbons." Three huge geological areas have been identified. The first one in the north of the country is said to be geologically complex.

Locations

The report points out that several locations, such as the Chelif basin, were abandoned in the past without adequate prospecting.

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هكذا امكنا

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

10.00 Holy Quran and National Anthem
10.15 Cartoons
10.30 Mama Anisa and children
11.00 Children varieties
11.15 Cultural film
12.15 Weekly programme: Fi Ribab Etarbiya
1.00 News in Brief
1.05 The World via Satellite
1.35 Cartoon serial
2.00 Historical serial
3.30 Arabic serial: Hatab Wanar
4.30 Ramadan competition
5.00 Arabic serial: Al Rahhaya
6.30 Cartoon serial: Safinat Al Asdiqa
7.15 Children serial: Tamamen
8.00 Variety show: Al Waan
8.45 Religious programme
9.30 Ramadan competition
10.00 News in Arabic
10.50 Local serial: Aada Walakin
11.45 Entertainment programme
12.00 Arabic serial: Al Thalathiya
12.50 Arabic film: Khatat Al Shaytan
2.15 News in Brief
2.20 The World via Satellite
2.50 Closedown

FRIDAY
10.00 Holy Quran and National Anthem



A scene from Khatat Al Shaytan, Arabic film on KTV 1 at 12.50 pm today.

10.15 Cartoons
11.15 Friday prayers: Live telecast from Grand Mosque
12.30 Religious programme: Al Zakat
1.00 News in Brief
1.05 The World via Satellite
1.35 Cartoon serial: Touta Fi Elmarikh

2.00 Historical serial: Al Nabiy Ha Homa
3.30 Arabic serial: Hatab Wanar
4.30 Ramadan competition
5.00 Arabic serial: Al Rahhaya
6.30 Cartoon serial: Safinat Al Asdiqa
7.15 Local children serial: Al Tamacen
8.00 Religious programme
8.45 Cultural programme: Al Osera
9.30 Ramadan competition
10.00 News in Arabic
10.50 Wrestling

11.45 Local programme: Al Qir Qaian
12.30 Arabic play: Sora Aeliya
2.15 News in Brief
2.20 The World via Satellite
2.50 Closedown

KTV 2

8.10 Islamic Horizon
8.20 Cartoons
8.30 Munsters Today: "Farewell Grandpa." Hermann has a touch of the flu — and the sound of his sneezing

shakes the walls of his home.

9.00 News in English
9.30 Forty Hadith Qudsi
9.45 The Beauty and the Beast: "Chamber Music." Vincent wants to help a talented piano player who is now addicted to drugs.

10.30 Paul Daniels Magic Show: British magician Daniels presents his show featuring several illusions.

11.00 Late Night Movie: "Death on the Oregon Trail." Starring: Rod Taylor, Charles Napier. A peaceful journey towards the wild, Wild West turns into a nightmare when one of the men in the wagons is killed. The alleged killer is found, and charged but someone stops his execution.

1.00 News Summary/Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 Islamic Horizon
8.20 Cartoons
8.30 Interbang: Johnny and Bruno are asked to deliver a letter to a professor in Pisa.

9.00 News in English
9.30 Forty Hadith Qudsi
9.45 Why Islam: A special programme for Ramadan. Persons who have turned to Islam tell why they like the Muslim faith.

10.00 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore introduces British League Soccer games.

11.30 Weekend: A local programme

12.00 Hunter: "Revenge." Part One. The diplomat from a Latin American country seeks immunity after



A scene from the KTV 2 movie, Hunter, at midnight on Friday.

raping two women, one a police officer. Hunter, enraged by the act, follows the diplomat to take revenge.

1.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Space Balls
Starring: John Kennedy, Rick Moran
Al Sahaya
A Night on the Town
Al Hanra
Ala Ummi (Arabic)
Starring: Ilham Shabin, Mohsin Mohiuddin

Drive-In
Al Sharid (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Faibi, Mahmoud Yassin
Al Firdous
Love Story (Hindi)
Starring: Kumar Gaurav, Vijeta Pandit
Fahad Open-air
Agnee (Hindi)

Fahad
Rangeen Saat
Bai Chamba
Jahra
Arabic Film
Granada
Capture of Big Foot
Al Jeeb
Apsan
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

FRIDAY

Jahra
Thunder Run
Granada
Tahifa Mohabbat Ka (Hindi)
Sahabkhat
Yellow Hair
Jeeb
Zulum Ka Badla (Hindi)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Qahera Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Takhim building
Al Baqam Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Al Raed building
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Andalus Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis st.
Salma and Rumatthiya
Al Nahda Pharmacy
Baghdad St.
Salma
Fahad and Ahmadi
Sadat Pharmacy
Fahad, Makkah st.
Farwaniya
Al Tawon Pharmacy
Main st., Al Jari Complex (No. 3)
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Jahra Co-operative

Kuwait
Salem Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
near Sheraton Hotel
Al Meji Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak st.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Hadiha Pharmacy
Bin Khalid st.
Al Othman Complex
Salma and Rumatthiya
Al Samah Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak st.
Salma
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Inan Pharmacy
Makkah st.
Fahad
Jeeb Shoyoukh
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
Al Shoyoukh commercial complex
Jahra
Al Abray Pharmacy
Dabal Al Ghooze st.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.
Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.
Tareq Rajab Museum
RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.10 pm. Collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world on show.
African Exhibition
AFRICAN textiles and crafts at the Sultan Gallery opened tonight by Mrs Amina Saleh, wife of Nigerian ambassador to Kuwait. The exhibition will be shown for two weeks from 9 am to 11 pm.
Sadu House
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.
One-Act play
MAY 4-7: IAC is organising

a one-act play competition at the IAC auditorium daily at 6.00 pm sharp from May 4 to 7. 12 plays will be staged in seven languages. For further details and entry passes contact Tel. Nos. 3904817, 3910165, 3903879, 2644863, 5622599.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Little Theatre
April 20: KLT, Ahmadi, will present entertainment to celebrate the St. Georges Day at Unity Centre, Ahmadi, in the presence of the British ambassador. Tickets KD2 including buffet. Tel: 3983724, 3985964, 3919759.
Bayanhan
APRIL 21: A get-together for KAPILKU members will be held at the Church Hall from 2.30 to 6.30 pm. All Filipinos are welcome. Free admission.
British Council
APRIL 22-23: "To the Lighthouse," the feature film will be shown on Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23 at the British Council Library.
Discovery of India
APRIL 27 and 28: Discovery of India, an audio visual show of traditional Indian folk music representing the various states of India to commemorate the Nehru Centenary at Indian Arts Circle, Funtia, at 8 pm. For passes contact Tel: 3925172, 5640384, 3722917, 4881359, or contact Casablanca Video, Fahad

and Mod Wears, near U.T.C. Fahad.

Summer Affair '89
MAY 6: The Weekend Club will hold the Summer Affair 89 at Regency Palace Hotel on the first day of Eid. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers in attendance. Highlights: Live contest, gala buffet and selection of Summer Queen contest. Tel: Hilary Barotto 5741380 (2-7.30 pm); Julio 5734513 (5 pm onwards); and Mercedes 4890566 (from 3 pm).
Annual Get-together
MAY 8: Kuwait chapter of International Pakistani professionals and businessmen will hold their annual get-together at the SAS Hotel Grand Ballroom at 7.00 pm. For further details ring 2425315.
Remo's Show
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer and Expatriate Queen will be crowned. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson - 3918905 (office hours); Val 5614506 after 2pm.
May Queen
May 11: Kuwait Goans will crown the May Queen at Mesilah Beach Hotel. Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance. Highlights of the evening will be Alexandre Rosario's performance. For details call 2413348; 4881387.

Casualty Cricket Club
MAY 18: 8 pm. Mesilah Beach Hotel: Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Live music: For tickets and information call Simon Clements - 5333248; or Val Tudball - 5327159.
Kuwait Caledonians
MAY 18: Mesilah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebric" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.
Arabian Nights
MAY 19: "Arabian Nights" evening at the Jawhara Nightclub, Mesilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle Eastern of past or present. 20 costume prizes. Tickets KD6. For reservations call: 4847461, 2418017, 4846843 ext 4515 or leave message on 2614201.

THEATRE
Reflections
April 22-27 (8.30 pm): The School of Contemporary Dance will present a repertoire of ballet entitled "Reflections" at the Mousetrap Theatre to celebrate their 15th anniversary. Tickets - KD 4. Box office open from 4-6.30 pm, Sat-Wed; ticket order: answer phone - 5382099, 2-6 pm.
Hindi play
MAY 4/5: 8 pm. Sharq Cooperative Society. Natya

Bharati presents Hindi play entitled "Bin Baati ke Deep" followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact Tel: 4880965; 5623810; 3725627.

HOTELS

Al Ramada Al Salem
El Bender: offers special iftar and suhoor buffet; Al Gandoni Grill Garden, open in the evenings offers a selection of grills in the ambience of a waterfall.
Al Mawardi Garden: After iftar, relax in the open-air with a cup of tea or coffee and watch a selection of movies on the big screen.
At the Holiday Inn
Coffee Shop: Offers iftar buffet every evening. Babylon and Lobby Cafe: A variety of Arabian sweets and fresh fruits with Jellab juice. Trio Dimension provides music up to 10 pm.
At the International
LA PALMA: Iftar buffet from a different country each week; begins in Egypt and goes on to Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Kuwait. It will be open from 6 pm to 3 am for suhoor.
At the Plaza
NOURA Terrace: open from 7 pm to 12 midnight, featuring Lebanese mezzeh and other treats.
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: offers a la carte or dinner buffet

featuring Arabic, Continental or Asian food. Speciality: plat du jour.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by fax (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaiikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.53 am
Zohr 11.47
Asr 3.22 pm
Maghreb 6.17
Isha 7.38

FRIDAY

Fajr 3.52 am
Friday Prayer 11.47
Asr 3.22 pm
Maghreb 6.18
Isha 7.39

RAMADAN TIMINGS

Imask 3.43 am
Iftar 6.17 pm
FRIDAY
Imask 3.42 am
Iftar 6.18 pm



Weight watchers competition

As Ramadan set in, members of the Executive Fitness Centre at the Kuwait International Hotel set an objective for themselves — losing weight? It began on the first day of Ramadan and will end on May 5 when the total weight loss will be calculated in terms of percentage of body weight. The participant losing the most weight by the end of the competition will be the overall winner and will receive a complimentary 5 month membership to the Executive Fitness Centre. The runner-up will receive a complimentary three month membership. Picture shows Antony Kingma, Fitness Centre instructor "weighing in" participants at the start of the programme.

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ENTERTAINMENT/HUMOUR

Every dog has his day

Four-legged stars make their mark

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

ONE can count on animal stars to do what their human counterparts will not. They are always ready on time and do anything you want, even impossible looking feats. They rarely throw any tantrums and they keep their love affairs to themselves, without letting them affect the shooting. They don't have ego problems and no film has been delayed or shelved because of them.

Animals of various kinds have been used in a variety of situations, with the films often becoming highly successful because of them. The latest example is K.C. Bokadia's *Main Tera Dushman* directed by Vijay Reddy, which was dominated by elephants and a baby jumbo in particular, while hero Jackie Shroff remained on the sidelines.

The current joke about flop hero Jackie is that he can succeed only in multi-starters. With the other stars being of the four-legged variety.

Main Tera Dushman was not exactly a hit but it is doing rather good business in the interiors (small towns, villages) and is quite a favourite with children. The baby elephant in the film is so well-trained and clever that it does a variety of stunts, like going to the bazaar for shopping, helping Jackie's wife Jaya Prada rescuing the hero's child from difficulties, beating up and crushing the bad-dies and what not.

Critics and adults may find it hard to swallow but the kid elephant even reads English! When Jaya and her son want to go away from the forest area, the jumbo does all possible tricks to stop them, like trying to get into the bus or blocking the road. When they somehow manage to slip away, it pursues them on its four feet. And when the roads become confusing, it sees the boards on the buses and follows the one going to Bombay.

Liberties
Such liberties often cost the film its success, because even child audiences now have become quite discerning. Bringing in religion can also become artificial and offensive. Director Reddy bestows a divine image on the animal, since the Hindu idol Ganesha has the head of an elephant. The film creature is given the name Ganesha and in one scene he stands outside a temple and collects money by blessing the devotees with his trunk touching their heads.

Another elephant film which became a roaring hit was *Haathi Mere Saathi* with Rajesh Khanna in his days of super stardom. It had a good plot, too, with the hero's wife considering the jumbos to be rivals and wanting to remove the nuisance.

Main Tera Dushman does not have any such interesting twist to its tale of revenge, in spite of having two heroines like Jaya Prada and Sri Devi. But it does try to cash in on the memory of the old hit. To remind audiences, Rajesh Khanna is brought back in the guest role of a truck driver, who helps the elephant on the highway. And the famous theme song of the old film is also played. Could not the same composers Laxmikant-Pyarelal come up with an equally good tune for the new film?

Among other new films, elephants are figuring again along with snakes in *Sheshnaag*, starring Rekha, Rishi Kapoor and Mandakini. Dost has Mithun with monkeys.

Dogs have been as popular as other animals for screen gimmicks and drama. Hollywood may have done it in a classy way with Lassie. Film-makers of Bombay or Madras have managed with their own Kaalia, Moti or



Prem Chopra and chimp Savitri, (above); Poonam and canine friend in Noorie (right); Sunny and Madhuri on horseback in Tridev.



Raju, but nobody has yet ventured to name a dog after a troublesome star, though the possibility is not ruled out.

The Bokadia, Reddy and Jackie trio have made ample use of a performing dog called Brownie in their earlier film *Teri Meherbaan*. There the canine had all but drowned the hero with a plethora of good turns. Brownie became a real star, with his trainer James charging one lakh rupees per film. And he did several Indian and some foreign films too. His dates have to be booked like other stars.

In *Mard* and some other films, the great Amitabh also sought the help of a horse and dog Brownie to pull off some funny scenes and some stunts. Manmohan Desai has a long tradition of using animals and birds, since his father Kikubhai also used to make stunt films under his Paramount studio. In *Noorie*, heroine Poonam's dog played a crucial role. He was tied up and watched helplessly while

his mistress was being raped but later took revenge. It was a dramatic use of an animal, and also quite appealing. In a more gimmicky way, the dog Jaani stole the scenes from Mithun in *Farvar*. Unfortunately, while doing a stunt scene the dog met with a tragic death. He had acted in over 100 films.

Chimps and monkeys have been other popular crowd-catchers. Some time back, a female of the species called Savitri nearly became a star charging a high fee, after her work in *Jawaab Hum Denge* (with Jackie), other south-made Hindi films and even the English film *Passage to India*. The tradition of monkey business goes back to the Tarzan movies, the Indian versions of which were called "Zambo" or "Zimbo". Gemini Studio presented a chimp called Zippy in the multi-star *Insaniyat* and it stole the show from giants like Dilip Kumar and Dev Anand. In *Homi Wadia's Zimbo*, a full-grown monkey called Pedro was imported from Australia.

There is of course a fund of labour and patience behind the work done by animals. The credit goes to the private owners, professional trainers or circus experts. Producer Devar who made *Haathi Mere Saathi* and other animal films used to main-



tain his own zoo, where his 4-legged or winged friends used to be looked after very well.

For all jungle movies or scenes like that, there is no other easy way to get tigers, lions or bears. Accidents and attacks are quite common. But there are also charges of cruelty and maltreatment towards the poor dumb creatures. Trainer Govindraj of Madras was charged with stitching the mouth and removing the claws of an aged tiger before the hero, could fight the starving creature in *Tussaf Kam Karega*. Animal lovers, wild life volunteers and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have lodged complaints and cases against many to no avail.

Humans must understand that when the animal is a friend and helps you to earn, why not give him enough creature-comforts and win his sympathy?

Jaya Prada now wants to forget Ganga Jamuna Saraswati like a bad dream. She avoids questions on it by changing the topic and saying she's not in the mood. Her mouth is sealed because of Amitabh. But then the tall star had also spoken about his starrer, *Nastik*, in the same way: "If you don't want to spoil my mood don't talk about that film."

Shakti Kapoor is again donning a clean garb, keeping away from all gals, phoning his wife and kids from location, rushing home early etc. Why? Is it in preparation for his new role as a villain-turned hero.

Behind the screen

declared that cable TV is completely illegal in any form and anyone found violating its copyright films will face stiff sentences. But N.F.D.C.'s own film *Saham Bombay* declares in a title at the beginning that the distributor has sold its rights for cable TV.

It was thus that the much-respected character actress Rakhee spoke about the much sought-after heroine Rekha: "That Rekha looks like a walking talk-

ing shop. Look at the amount of make-up and jewellery she puts on." Rekha's reply was simple: "Only flop actresses attack successful ones."

Subhas Ghai held a charity premieres of his *Ram Laxman* to collect funds for the victims of the Armenian earthquake. But he did not raise a little finger for the sufferers of the "Tippu" fire tragedy in Mysore, which is nearer home.

The Art Buchwald Column
This is my gun

cans off brick walls.

Instead of taking away anybody's right to bear arms, it would make a lot more sense to issue everyone in the country a good bulletproof vest.

There has been no scientific evidence that a handgun will kill a person. All we know so far is that it will cause deafness if held too close to the ear.

Law-abiding gun owners should not be punished just because policemen are being shot in the streets.

If you make someone in a gun store wait two weeks for a weapon, he may lose interest and decide to spend the money on groceries instead.

When you take a gun away from an honest citizen, he becomes impotent.

If Congress passes any law restricting the use of guns, everyone who works at the NRA will lose his job.

Gun owners who are heavily armed feel very threatened by all the hysteria on guns. If stirred up, they might use their weapons to make their point.

If we demand all semi-automatic weapons be banned, there would be no way of keeping grapes out of the United States.

The economic havoc caused by our inability to buy assault weapons could cause the worst recession in 60 years.

The boom in the sale of assault weapons at the present time is the only thing that will make up for the losses of the savings and loan industry in the United States.

If we do anything to stop the sale of weapons, the Russians will read it as a sign of weakness and land troops on Kennebunkport, Me.

If William Bennett does



anything to cut back on gun sales in the United States, President Bush will be stripped of his lifetime membership in the NRA.

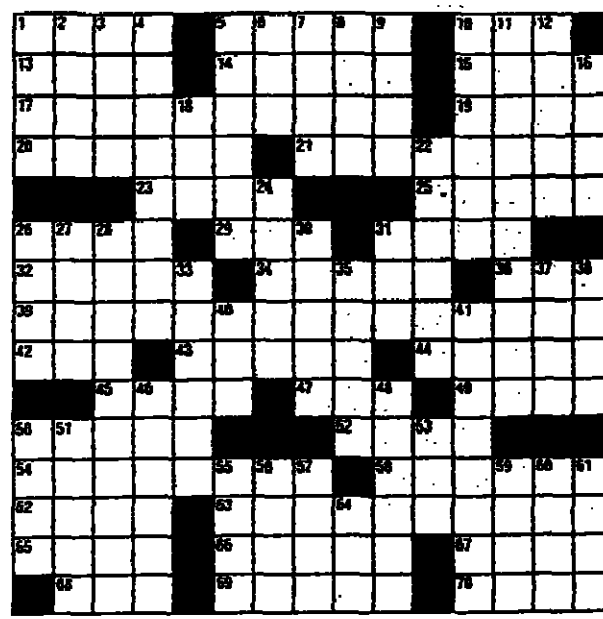
Law-abiding persons don't have to be told by any smart aleck jerk pencil-pushing pervert bureaucrat what to do with a gun.

If you want to stop people in families from being accidentally killed by guns, build more jails.

If Congress wants to get tough about guns, let the members get their campaign money from the anti-Constitution rats on the other side.

The greatest challenge to a sportsman is to shoot a deer before she shoots you. 1989, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Church recess
- 5 Baby bird?
- 10 Simian
- 13 Campus figure
- 14 Aquiline abode
- 15 Small weight
- 17 "Terry and the Pirates" villainess
- 19 Seine feeder
- 20 Contend
- 21 Merits
- 23 Post Ogden
- 25 Posts a letter
- 26 Commanded
- 28 Obsession
- 31 Anagram for Elbe
- 32 Made a mistake
- 34 Waterwheel
- 36 Author Umberto
- 39 Robert Daley best-seller
- 42 Droop
- 43 Also-ran
- 44 Mournful sound
- 45 European capital
- 47 Gist
- 49 "Without Sunshine" Whitten novel
- 50 Devilish
- 52 DEA agent
- 54 Forward
- 58 Fan
- 62 Concerning

DOWN

- 1 Increases
- 2 Saucy
- 3 Mosel feeder
- 4 Trainman
- 5 Most balanced
- 6 Avir
- 7 Toward the mouth
- 8 Carnival attraction
- 9 Florida —
- 10 Greek marketplaces
- 11 Not subject to usual rules
- 12 Stand for
- 16 Officers' dining room
- 18 Eggs, to Cato
- 22 Begin a journey
- 24 Traces
- 26 Ottoman governors
- 27 Location
- 28 Plant of the Canary

ISLANDS

- 30 Senator from Maine
- 31 Assist
- 33 Greenback
- 35 Second time around, TV style
- 37 Soft drink
- 38 And no other
- 40 Egg — yong
- 41 Boa family member
- 46 Toughness
- 48 Certain peers
- 50 Popular street name
- 51 Bother
- 53 Guildry of baseball
- 55 March time
- 56 Heraldic pattern
- 57 Pro —
- 59 Mountain lake
- 60 Revise copy
- 61 Agents, for short
- 64 "I — Rhythm"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

FINESSE, OR NOT?

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 4
♥ A K J
♦ K 3 2
♣ A K J 10 6

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 9 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 7 3

EAST
♠ Q 7
♥ 7 6
♦ 2 9 8 4
♣ Q 9 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K 5 3
♥ Q 10 8 3 2
♦ A J 7 5
♣ 5

The bidding:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♣ Pass 5 NT Pass
7 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Just because a finesse is available does not necessarily mean you have to commit yourself to it blindly. It might be the best play you have, but try to get all the information you can.

North's three-spade rebid was a cue-bid in support of hearts. After two more cue-bids, South used the Grand Slam Force to find out whether North held the missing top trump honors. He did.

Declarer won the first trick in dummy then tested trumps by cashing the ace-king. Next came the king of clubs and a club ruff, followed by the king of spades and a spade ruff, on which East discarded a diamond. A club was ruffed high as West discarded a spade, and the last trump was drawn, on which East and dummy both parted with a diamond.

Declarer crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds and in a futile attempt to drop the queen, cashed the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond from hand as West stuffed a spade. Everyone was now down to two cards, declarer's being the ace-jack of diamonds. When he led a diamond from dummy, East produced the ten. Should declarer finesse or not, and why?

If you have been following the play, you should have no trouble getting this one right. East's last card is known to be the queen of clubs, while West has a spade and the last diamond, the queen. So go up with the ace of diamonds, drop the queen and claim your grand slam. Easy, isn't it.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ARAB TOMB PAITH
DEER SNOOP AGE
ZERO AUSTRALIAN
LOWER THE BOOM
NIPS TEAM
AT RIP ADELALIDE
PROFIT URM SIR
HIGHER EDUCATION
ICE ANI EDENTIE
SETASIDE ANGAS
MAN FIT
RAISED THE ROOF
HATCHERIES ODES
ISER SADAT NOTIA
PENS GETA ERIAT

lowed by the king of spades and a spade ruff, on which East discarded a diamond. A club was ruffed high as West discarded a spade, and the last trump was drawn, on which East and dummy both parted with a diamond.

Declarer crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds and in a futile attempt to drop the queen, cashed the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond from hand as West stuffed a spade. Everyone was now down to two cards, declarer's being the ace-jack of diamonds. When he led a diamond from dummy, East produced the ten. Should declarer finesse or not, and why?

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"I told you not to invite your football mates!"



"That was delicious, dear — my compliments to the lake-away."

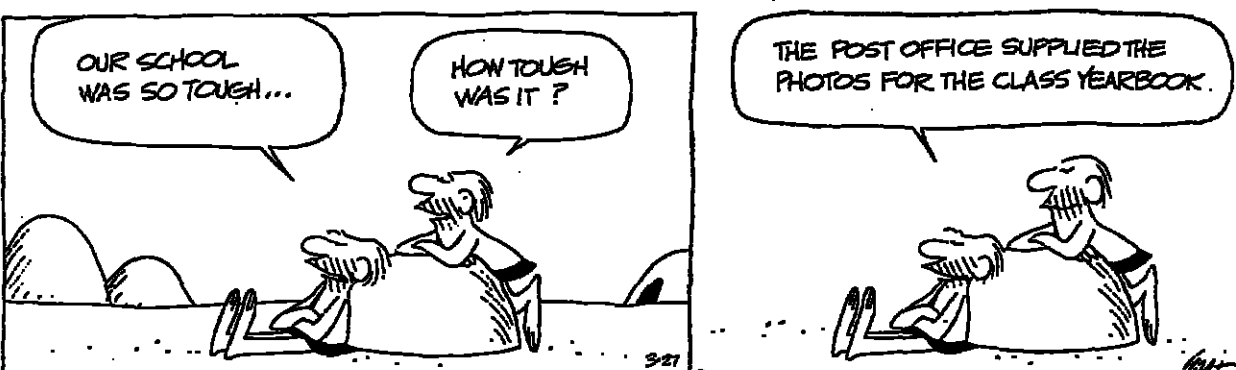
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

This is going to be an interesting day but you must avoid going to extremes. You should not allow yourself to get into a muddle. Slow but thorough is better than fast but slipshod. Be considerate.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You are more liable to be caught if you do anything slightly wrong like parking where you should not. Your lucky numbers are 29 and 52. You should work hard but you should not make it all work and no play. Take enough exercise. Be respectful but not obsequious.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

You should ensure you do not lose touch with a friend who has moved house. You will have the wind in your sails but ask yourself whether you are heading the right way. Do not eat or drink to excess. Be considerate.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will have to work even harder if you want to acquire a new skill but it will be worth it. Others will not always be willing to help you but you will nonetheless be able to make good progress. You are on the right track and you should persevere. Be loving.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have a lot to do but if you are methodical you will get a great deal done. You should not do anything that might upset your partner. Make sure you do not exceed any speed limits and park carefully. Be sensible.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be a little below par, but where there is a will there is a way. If you are invited do not stay longer than you are welcome. Avoid spending more than you can readily afford. Be sensible.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

You should have more faith in yourself and more confidence in others too. All kinds of jealousies and resentments should be avoided so far as possible. If you work hard you will ultimately succeed. Be generous.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

You will find certain obstacles in your way, but your enthusiasm will help you to overcome them. You will have some luck but not enough to make any difference to your lifestyle. Indeed it will be more what might have happened but luckily did not. Be polite.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should take a little longer deliberating before you make up your mind. You will not get your way in all things, but you will in some. Make sure you keep your consumption of sweets within limits. Be more patient.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will know how to make the most of a good opportunity. You have plenty of energy but you must not dissipate it. Do not act as though you were ten years younger; do not be afraid to be your age. Be observant.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

This is going to be a busy day for you and you must do all you can to avoid wasting time. Make sure you get enough exercise to keep you fit. Avoid all kinds of exaggerations and distortions of the truth. Be moderate.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

A skill you have learnt will at last prove its value to you. You should try to see the funny side as well as the serious side of the situation. Do not think that you will be loved without loving in return. Be reliable.

كلمة اليوم

JUNIOR TIMES

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 20-21, 1989

Dear Junior Readers,

As the days pass by and the summer heat becomes uncomfortable, we need something to refreshen us during the day. Something tasty, but healthy. Something to quench thirst without causing frequent dental visits. Fruit.

Thank the Lord, Kuwait's markets are rich with lovely summer fruits during the long hot days of desert summers. The variety ranges from mangoes and guava to kiwi, watermelon and peaches.

Fruit quenches the worst thirst when eaten chilled and is low in calories for those watching their weight.

In general, most fruits are healthy loaded with vitamins and minerals, meaning that they help maintain a good complexion, keep eyes healthy and shining and help maintain stamina.

Try to keep fruit in your daily diet... we are very fortunate to have such a wide variety where we live.

Munad

Happy birthday



Gurleen Arora celebrates her birthday on April 18. Birthday greetings from parents, sister Harpreet and friends.

Congratulations



Nuzhat Jabeen, a student of 2nd year pre-medical Pakistan School and College, Rumeithiya, has been awarded a Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Gold Medal for the Shant-Nar's International Children's Competition. Nuzhat has previously been awarded silver medals in 1985 and 1986. Well done, Nuzhat, keep up the good work.

Amazing facts

When the famous composer, Beethoven, heard a friend's opera for the first time he joked: "I liked your opera. I think I will put it to music."

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford was the first museum to be open to the public in 1683.

The first animated cartoon character in its own right was Gertie the Trained Dinosaur in 1910.

If animals were measured in size, starting with the largest that has ever existed, the first in the list is the Blue Whale, which is still very much alive today.

Sugar cane, which today is an important crop throughout the American continent, first, grew in Asia five thousand years ago.

Apart from the need to learn a different alphabet to the one we use, we would find reading ancient Greek, as written by the ancient Greeks, quite a problem. There were no spaces between the words to mark the last letter of one word and the beginning of the next. There was not any punctuation either!

Battersea Dogs' Home was started in 1871 by a Mrs Tealy. The home cares for over 20,000 homeless dogs each year and is forced to put down many of these if no homes can be found for them.

Proverb: "The first breath is the beginning of death."

Proverb: "The last comer latches the door, maketh all sure."

The tradition of wearing top hats by the pupils at Eton College only came to an end in November of 1972.

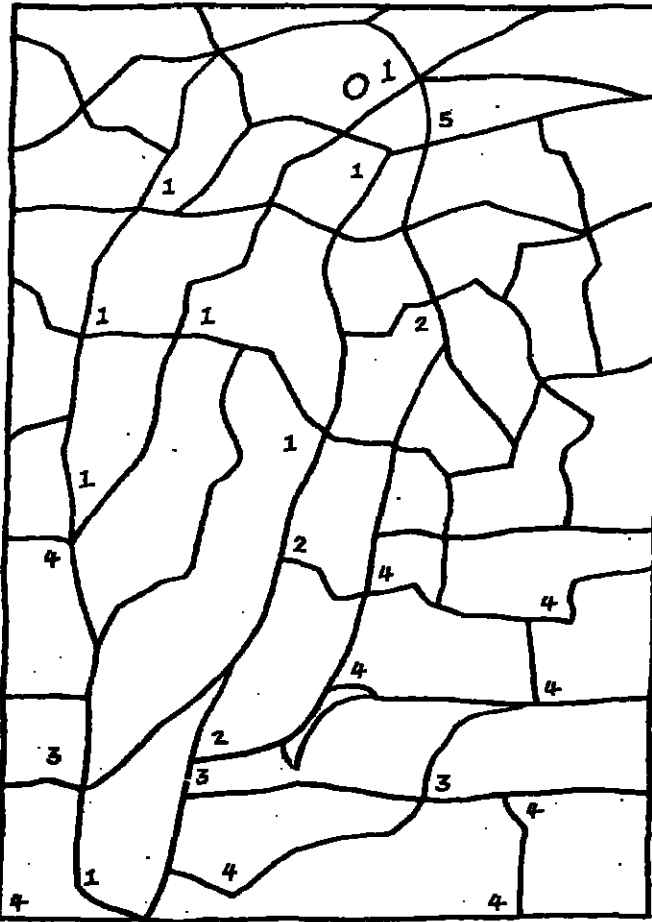
An elephant can carry 2 gallons of water in its trunk.

Firsts and lasts

The first recorded encyclopaedia was published in 1559 and was written by Paul Scalich. The Chinese have been said to have compiled an encyclopaedia before the birth of Christ, but not one of the three huge copies have survived. The word "encyclopaedia" literally means; "learning within a circle."

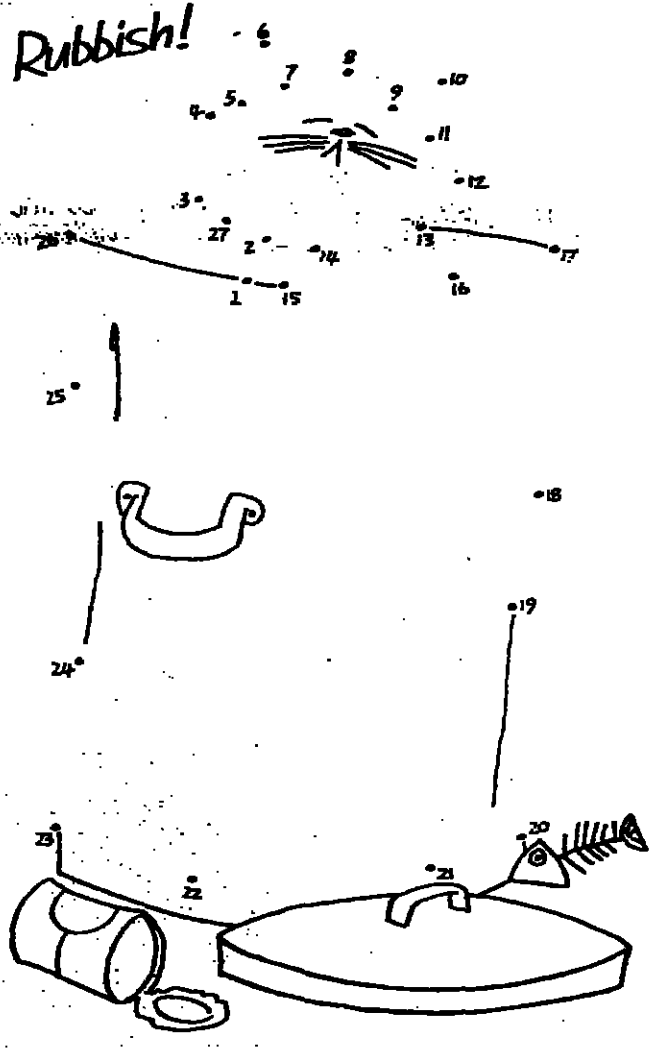
The first china teeth were introduced in France. They were exhibited in Britain in 1788 and because the state of most people's teeth in those days were so bad, they were immensely popular.

Colouring time FOLLOW the CODE



1-Blue. 2-Red. 3-Brown. 4-Green. 5-Black.

Join the dots



Let's go Woody

How do trees grow?

A TREE has three main parts. The roots anchor it in the ground and absorb water and minerals from the soil. The trunk and branches carry sap and lift the leaves into the sunlight. The leaves are the food factories of the tree.

A tree grows higher and wider by lengthening its twigs and branches at the tips. At the ends of the twigs, the terminal buds are continually adding new cells. Meanwhile, the branches, twigs, and trunk grow thicker.

Most trees have a section called the cambium, which is a layer of cells where growth in diameter occurs. Every year the layer of cambium between the sapwood and the inner bark adds a layer of new cells to the older wood. Each layer forms a ring—and by counting the rings one can tell the age of a tree.

Water and dissolved minerals travel up from the roots to the leaves in the new layers of wood inside the cambium. This part of the trunk is called the sapwood. Other sap carries plant food down from the leaves through a layer inside the bark.

As the tree grows, the older sapwood stiffens and loses connection with the leaves. Then it just stores water, and finally it becomes solid heartwood.

While the cambium makes the tree trunk and its branches grow in size, the leaves produce the food which builds the tissues of the tree. Using the energy from sunlight, the green colouring matter in the leaves (chlorophyll) takes carbon dioxide out of the air. It combines the carbon dioxide with water and dissolved minerals from the roots to form sugars and starches.

What makes the rings on a tree?

IF you were to cut down any tree more than one year old and look at the cross-section, you would see alternating bands of light and dark wood. The two bands together are called "the annual ring", and they make up the amount of wood formed by the tree during a single growing season or year.

Why are the bands lighter and darker? This is because the wood grows in a different way during the different seasons. In spring and early summer, the cells of the wood are bigger and have thinner walls. This makes them look lighter. In late summer, the cells are smaller, have thick walls, and are closely packed together. This makes a darker band.

The age of a tree can be told by counting the annual rings. When you look at the rings of a tree, you will notice that they vary in width and in many other details. These variations are caused by the weather conditions that prevailed during the given season. A difference in the light, the amount of rain, and the minerals in the soil, will produce a difference in the rings of a tree. That is why scientists often use the rings to obtain a clue to the weather conditions that prevailed years ago in certain parts of the world.

When a tree grows, the wood of the tree is not the only thing that increases in size from year to year. Additions are also made to the bark of the tree. This is done by means of a thin band of living, dividing cells between the wood and the bark. This layer is called "the cambium". The new cells which are formed on the wood side of the cambium become wood. The cells formed towards the outside become bark.

Why do trees have bark?

THE outer portion of a woody stem or root is called "bark". Sometimes it is hard to tell how much of the stem should be

called bark. In the palm tree, for example, there is no clear separation between bark and wood.

What does bark do for the tree? One of its main functions is to protect the inner, more delicate structures. It not only keeps them from drying out, but also guards against outside injuries of various sorts.

The thick, fibrous barks of some redwood trees in America show scars as a result of fires near the ground, but the inner portions of the tree escaped injury.

The process by which bark is formed may go on year after year. In the very young branch of a maple, for example, there is no rough bark as such. The surface of the shoot is nearly smooth. As the twig forms more wood and grows in size, the outer portions may split open. The injury caused in this way is healed from the inside.

Some of the outer portions become dry and die. The dead, broken portions give the bark a rough appearance. Some of the dry pieces are shed or broken off as the twig grows larger and older.

Man finds the bark of many trees very useful. Commercial cork is obtained almost entirely from the cork oak tree. The bark of the hemlock tree is used in the tanning of leather. The spice we know as cinnamon is the powdered bark of a tree which grows in India and Malaya. Quinine is obtained from the bark of the cinchona tree. Extracts from the bark of other trees are used for flavouring, and the bark of the roots and branches of many trees are used in medicines.



Ha! Ha!

"What are you learning at school now, Brenda?" asked her Gran.

"French, German and we've just started Algebra."

"Really?" said the old lady, impressed. "I used to learn French and German but I've never heard anyone speak Algebra."

"Dad, the careers master said that with a mind like mine I should study criminal law."

"That's wonderful, son. I'm proud of you."

"He said I had a criminal mind."

"So," thundered Stanley's furious father, "you've been expelled from university, have you?"

"Yes, Dad. I am a fugitive from a brain gang."

"I saw you kissing my sister last night!" jeered the brat to the embarrassed teenage lad.

"All right, all right! Not so loud," said the youth. "Here fifty pence to keep your mouth shut."

"Cor, thanks! Wait a minute and I'll give you twenty pence change."

"Twenty pence change? What for?"

"I like to be fair," said the youngster, "and it's the same price for everybody!"

Rebecca's mother found her in her bedroom in floods of tears. "What on earth is the matter, dear?" she enquired anxiously.

"I've just had a letter from my boyfriend," sobbed the distraught girl, "and he's only put two kisses on the bottom!"

"So?"

"I hate being double-crossed!"

Alan had just asked his father for an increase in his pocket money.

"What do you want more money for?" demanded his father.

"Well, I'm thirteen now, Dad," explained the lad, "and I'm thinking of going out with girls."

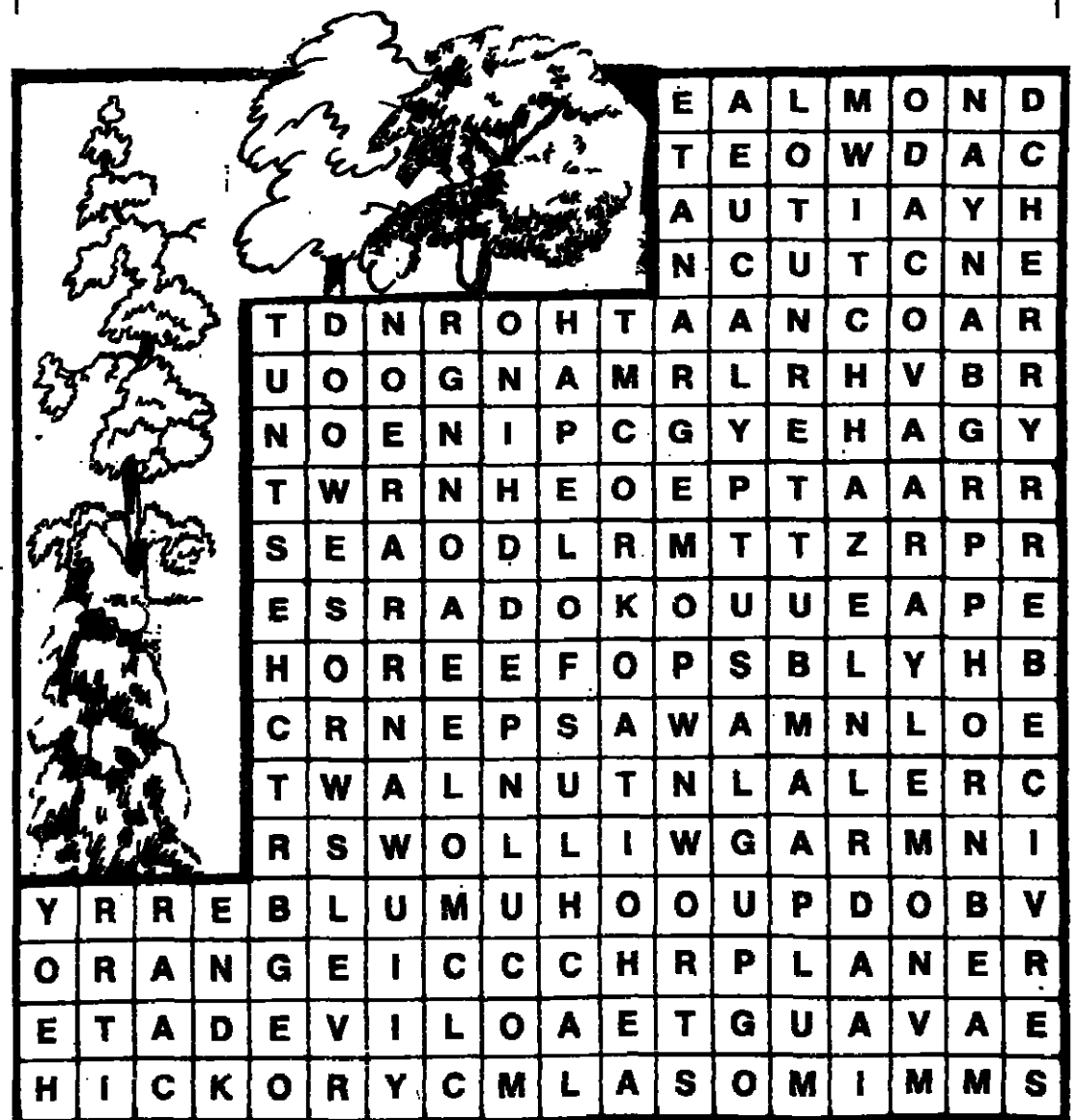
"Girls? What kind of girls?"

"Girls with money."

Word search

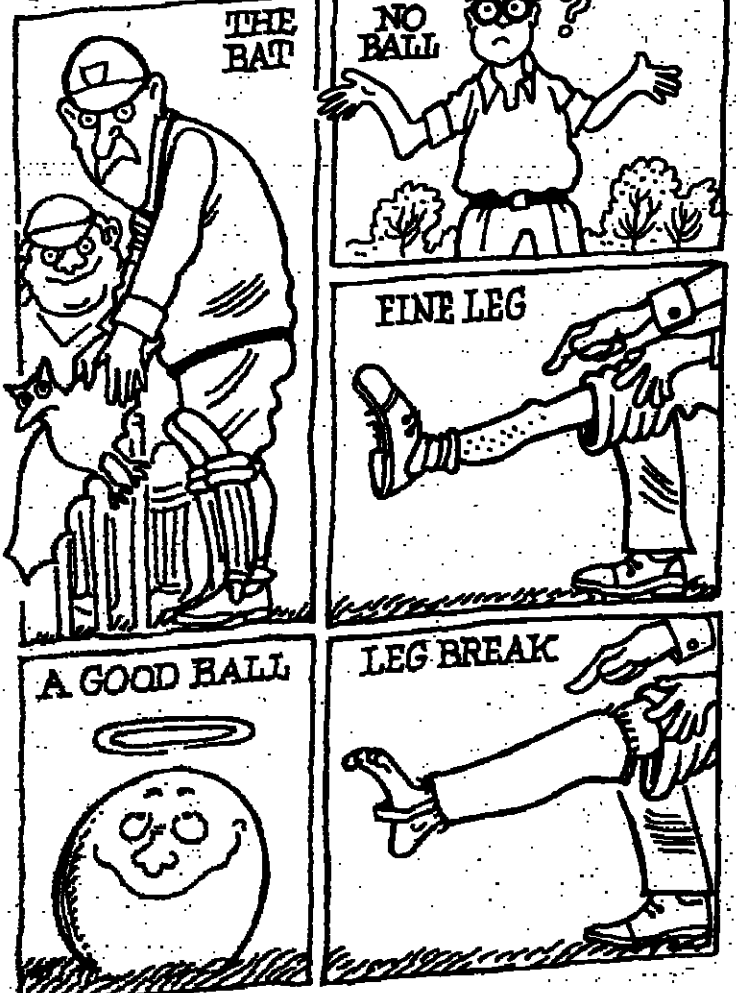
FROM THE TREES

DATE	OLIVE
EUCALYPTUS	ORANGE
GOLDEN WREATH	PALM
GUAVA	PINE
HICKORY	PLANE
HORNBEAM	PLUM
LAUREL	POMEGRANATE
LEMON	ROSEWOOD
LOCUST	SANDALWOOD
MAHOGANY	SERVICEBERRY
MANGO	THORN
MIMOSA	WALNUT
MOUNTAIN ASH	WILLOW
MULBERRY	WITCH HAZEL



Clue: Breakfast fruit (10 letters)

Some Cricketing Terms Explained...



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION Available

ABBASIYA, behind the Telecom-
munication Building. One room in
a 2 bedroom flat for a working
lady or an Indian bachelor only.
Tel. Mrs D'Souza, 4745828, 9am-
2pm, 8-10 pm.

(AT4-46943-3)

KUWAIT City, behind the Mutta-
hida Complex, above Miami Res-
taurant, Flat No. 12, 3rd floor.
Room for working girls, two
bachelors or a couple. Tel. Mr
Mansoor, 2428947, 2412362, 9am-
12pm, 8-10 pm.

(AT6-46999-3)

FAHAHEEL, Mekkah Street, one
room with water, electricity and
tele. facilities for one Indian
bachelor to share with another
bachelor. Rent KD30. Tel. Fred,
3922169, after 1 pm.

(AT6-46985-2)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7,
Area 4. One big room with water
and electricity, for a family or
working girls, to share with an
Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102.
Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243.

(AT4-46973-3)

SALMIYA, one room for two
bachelors to share with a family.
Tel. Mr Yousuf, 5611539, 10am-
12 noon, 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

(AT6-46983-3)

ABBASIYA, one room in a 2-
bedroom flat for one or two
bachelors to share with another
bachelor. Rent KD 50. Tel.
Thomas, 5724614, 8.30 am - 1.30
pm.

(AT5-46967-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday
Inn, available for one bachelor to
share with another bachelor in a
two-bedroom flat with two other
Goan bachelors. Tel. 2422086/
87 ext. 22.

(AT5-46981-2)

SALWA, New villa, ground floor
with 3 bedrooms, 4 halls, 3 bath-
rooms and 2 kitchens. Suitable for
Europeans. Tel. 2436048, 11am-
2pm, 2540050, 2-10 pm.

(AT4-46950-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, Arabic
house consisting of 14 bedrooms,
6 bathrooms, suitable for com-
pany labourers or bachelors.
Tel. 2533404 after 1 pm.

(AT6-46995-3)

SALWA, near The Sultan Center,
apartment with 3 bedrooms, 2
bathrooms and 2 saloons. Tel.
5652986, 9011387, after 6 pm.

(AT5-46972-3)

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Boats

AMERICAN Regal 25XL L25F/
W8F. Mercruiser twin inboard
engines each 175HP, cabin, kit-
chenette, 8 seats cockpit, double
sunsheds, also sking eqpt. In per-
fect condition. One owner.
KD7000. Tel. 2527814, 2-5 pm.

(AT6-46982-3)

COMMODORE SX-64, portable
and MPS802 printer, joysticks,
voltage stabilizer, books, soft-
ware, KD300 (fixed). Tel.
5330728, after 2 pm.

(AT5-46969-2)

PARALLEL printer with cable,
pinfeed and friction. Brand new.
KD56. Tel. Mr Eric Jones
2407866, 8am-9pm.

(AT4-46953-3)

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A CLASSICAL suite comprising
two 3-seater sofas and four arm
chairs with oval-shaped marble
coffee table to match. 1-1/2 years
old hardly used. KD375 ono. Tel.
Dr Jalili, 2637352, after 4pm.

(AT4-46945-3)

DINING set, 2 bedroom sets, kit-
chen items, appliances, carpets
and curtains. Tel. 5330728, after
2 pm.

(AT5-46969-2)

AS new, 2 baby chairs KD10
each, oakwood baby cot, KD25.
Tel. Mrs Jones, 2407866 10am-
6pm.

(AT4-46952-3)

PLANTS, small and medium sized
painting, exercise cycle and other
small household items for quick
sale. Tel. 2541894.

(AT6-46988-3)

BIG garage sale, plants, lamps,
household & electric kitchen
items, IKEA tables, clothes, shoes,
bags, toys etc. Also many other
small things for shelves. Tel.
2527814, 8 am - 12 noon.

(AT6-46982-3)

Cars

MINI COOPER, 7-seater, mini-bus.
1986, AC, central high roof,
brown, 85,000 kms in good con-
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ments. Tel. Yousuf, 3910834,
after 10 am.

(AT5-46988-3)

CHEVROLET Celebrity station
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will be sold by sealed bid only.
Bidding closes at 3 pm, April 29.
Tel. 2424151 ext. 307, 9am-3pm
only, Sat-Wed.

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AUDI 100, 1984 model, dark blue,
fully automatic, with AC, 62,000
kms, insured up to Nov '89, one
owner. In very good condition.
KD1,800, down payment, KD300.
KD54 by instalments for 3 years.
Tel. 2403280.

(AT5-46989-3)

TOYOTA Tercel Stationwagon
1983, manual, AC, owner driven
only, well maintained in excellent
condition. KD900 ono. Tel.
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(AT4-46960-3)

SUBARU GLF 1800, automatic,
grey, two doors, with AC, radio,
electric mirrors and windows, in
excellent condition, KD725. Tel.
4887482, 10 am - 10 pm.

(AT5-46975-2)

HONDA Accord 1984, dark blue,
manual, AC, 65,000 kms, in run-
ning condition. Tel. 3724857,
after 3 pm.

(AT5-46978-2)

PLYMOUTH Reliant, 1984, with 4
doors, in good condition, will be
sold by sealed bid only. Bidding
closes at 3 pm, April 29. Tel.
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Sat-Wed.

(AT5-46965-3)

CHRYSLER New Yorker, 1981,
chocolate brown, 8 cylinders,
fully automatic, well-maintained
by single owner. For quick sale.
Tel. 2541894.

(AT5-46988-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GL24 pur-
chased July 1988, 1600 kms, fully
automatic, in immaculate con-
dition. KD 1,000 monthly instal-
ments. Price negotiable. Tel.
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NISSAN Stanza, 1984, 4 doors,
AC, automatic, hatchback, sun-
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5625436.

(AT5-46980-3)

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roof, insured for one year, in very
good condition. Tel. 5618476.

(AT6-46987-3)

SAAB 900 GLE, 1982, automatic,
powered systems, with AC, new
tyres, new battery, lady-driven, in
lovely condition. Tel. Carl
3720195 after 4 pm.

(AT6-46992-3)

TOYOTA Celica 1984, AC,
automatic two doors, sunroof,
red, single hand driven. KD1,200,
(fixed) cash. Tel. 3901372.

(AT6-46990-3)

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only in the summer. Tel. 5332258.

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without children to live-in, in Dhe-
hiya Abdullah Al Salem. Must
speak English and have transfera-
ble visa. Tel. 2561467.

(AT6-46989-3)

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Villas, half villas,
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Tel. 2406592,
2406593

MAID required for an Indian
family in Farwaniya. Tel. 4842988
ext 2753, 8am-2pm.

(AT4-46964-3)

MAID required, Filipino or Indian,
for a family. Must speak English
and have a transferable
residence. Tel. Abu Mohammad,
5711600, 5711800.

(AT6-46986-3)

Wanted

CIVIL engineer (diploma) Indian,
five-years experience in Kuwait.
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Write to B.R. Mistry, P.O. Box
21916, 13080 Safat.

(AT4-46941-3)

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7 am - 12.30 pm, 3.30 - 7 pm. Tel.
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(AT4-46970-3)

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OLD English sheep dog free to a
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with children. Owner leaving
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(AT6-46993-3)

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I, BADRUDDIN, holder of Indian
passport No. E953581, hereby
change my name as Badruddin
Noor Ali.

(AT5-46984-2)

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Complete sandwich shop
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Shaver machine,
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Mr Abbas, from 10 am
to 1 pm.

(AT5-46988-3)

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بہرِ حق انھوں میں سے زیادہ انکاروں سے زیادہ اتنی ہی انکار کی گرتے والے جہانوروں پر عرب نے کھدائے فحش نہ کہنے۔ فیروز گھمان ورائی کھینچی سے خشمِ حق پر عورت

[illegible]

”نزی دیو“ میں سنی دیہیل اور مادھوری ڈانٹ گھونٹنے کے ساتھ اداکاری کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں

"ساوتری" نامی ہندو یا پریمچو پڑا سے زیادہ کامیاب اور کارہ ثابت ہوئی ہے۔

[illegible][illegible]

’ کوہستان سہیلی ایک بھینٹ خواب

نئے دستاویزی، پرجا شرما..... امریکی اہلکاروں کا ضرورت سے زیادہ استعمال

☆ مٹی کی کباب شرف ہوتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے
 قریب کھائی کر کاٹا کھنڈ روایت خوشگ کو دریا پار
 ہو کر مٹی کی کباب چلن سنا کر کہتے ہیں کہ ہم
 خوشگ سے میرے کباب چلے ہیں یہ سب کباب اتر
 انہوں نے سیر ہو کر خانے

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's head and shoulders. The image is heavily shadowed and grainy, with the person's face mostly obscured by deep shadows. The lighting highlights the texture of the skin and the shape of the head, creating a dramatic and somber mood. The person appears to be looking down or away from the camera.

بدیچہ - تقاضا : چاہو بدیچہ !
 ہر کام چیل کھل کے اقبال سے میلدار اور دلچسپ
 ہو کر اس کا آغاز اس مقام کے خاص فائدہ پر مشرق، ماسوائے
 مستندہ سے مشرق غائب ہو سہرور حال پر مشرق پر اثر کرے
 اور مشرق سے مشرقین کے دلوں پر اپنی گانگی کے اثر کرے
 جو حال بدیچہ میں اس کے کھیل کو گھر گھر
 کہنے کے ساتھ کھیلے گا۔ وہ کھیل جس کی یاد دلچسپ فائدہ
 دوسرے گوندوں میں بھی لگا کر اور پیچیدہ کھیل ہے۔
 پیچیدہ کھیل جس پر تاج ہے جسے احد کے ساتھ
 "میں نے تیرے ساتھ" "میں نے تیرے ساتھ" "میں نے تیرے ساتھ"

[illegible]

شہنشاہِ عالمگیرؑ کی یاد میں شاعرانہ گیت گائی گئی ہیں۔

[illegible]

A black and white photograph showing a woman in a patterned dress and a man in a suit, both looking down at the ground. The woman is on the left, and the man is on the right. They appear to be in a public space, possibly a street or a park. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

تیرہ لاکھ دس ہزار روپے کی رقم کیسٹرواٹ ہو گئی۔ ایک عکس ہوا



پہنچتہ کوثر کی



ہال میں مگر نہ پائے دارے شہزادہ کی ایک بڑی تعداد ہال سے باہر کرسیوں پر بیٹھی ہے



بچوں کا مصنف

[illegible]

بخت راسخہ خرم سے لڑا اور کسی پیچیدگی میں گرفتار نہ ہوا

کرب و بخت سے ہمیں ہمیں ضرور مل جائے گا۔ اوری ہوا ماراقتا۔ تو کون کے جوابات سے کہیں کہ بخت کی تلاش میں کھنڈ میں پانا۔

خبر کے دوران ایک جنگل سے گزرتے ہوئے اس کی نظر ایک شیر پر پڑی جو کسی طیف کے طور پر ایک کچھ اوری کی اس میں کس ایک اس سے تیرے پیچھا میں کسی ایک طیف کے خبر کے حکم کا کہ "کرب" ہمیں ضرور ضرور ملے۔ لیکن یہ خبر کوئی ایک ہلکے سے خبر ہے۔ اس کے جواب دینے میں اپنے اپنے لئے کو اوروں سے جا رہا۔

بخت راسخہ خرم سے لڑا اور کسی پیچیدگی میں گرفتار نہ ہوا۔

خبر کے دوران ایک جنگل سے گزرتے ہوئے اس کی نظر ایک شیر پر پڑی جو کسی طیف کے طور پر ایک کچھ اوری کی اس میں کس ایک اس سے تیرے پیچھا میں کسی ایک طیف کے خبر کے حکم کا کہ "کرب" ہمیں ضرور ضرور ملے۔ لیکن یہ خبر کوئی ایک ہلکے سے خبر ہے۔ اس کے جواب دینے میں اپنے اپنے لئے کو اوروں سے جا رہا۔

وقت دور رہتا ہے۔ بہت سی چیزیں ہوا میں استعمال ہیں۔
 نہیں، ٹھیک نہیں ہوگا۔ اس کا کیا علاج ہے؟۔
 خیر، آؤشی کی باتیں سن کر آگے روانہ ہوا۔ اور ایک

[illegible]

SPORTS

Rangers to meet Celtic in Cup final

EDINBURGH, April 19, (Reuters) Premier League leaders Rangers beat First Division part-timers St. Johnstone 4-0 at the second attempt yesterday to set up a Scottish Cup final against old rivals Celtic on May 6.

Rangers, who played poorly in Saturday's goalless draw, were in a much sharper mood right from the start of the replay.

Mark Walters put them in the lead after 14 minutes and Gary Stevens made it 2-0 with a fierce volley just before half-time.

Second half goals by Kevin Drinkell and Ally McCoist ensured their passage through to the final on May 20.

Meanwhile, Rangers' manager Graeme Souness was summoned yesterday to appear before the Scottish Football Association (SFA) disciplinary committee next week for breaking a touchline ban.

The moody, former Scottish international was barred from following Rangers' matches from the touchline until the end of the season after remarks made to a linesman during a Scottish League match in February.

But on Saturday he twice left his seat in the stand to appear on the pitch during a Scottish Cup match against St. Johnstone, claiming communications problems with his bench.

Hearts' striker John Robertson will also face the committee, next Wednesday, after apparently striking Glasgow Celtic's Tommy Burns in a Cup match last month.

The referee missed the incident, but it was captured by television.

Results

English Division One	Division Two	Division Three	Division Four
Arsenal 1	Sheff Wed 1	Bristol 0	St. Johnstone 0
Wimbledon 1	Sheff Wed 1	Cardiff 0	Rangers 4
Everton 0	Sheff Wed 1	Southend 1	Celtic 1
Derby 0	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Wed 1	St. Johnstone 0

Beckenbauer calls up Augenthaler

BONN, April 19, (Reuters)

Former Bayern Munich captain Franz Beckenbauer has called up Bayern Munich's 32-year-old defender Klaus Augenthaler to his West German squad for next week's vital World Cup Group Four soccer qualifier against the Netherlands.

Augenthaler, 32, has not played for the national side since 1986, but after some impressive form for the League last season he has bounced back into Beckenbauer's side against the European champions in Rotterdam next Wednesday.

VFB Stuttgart striker Juergen Klinsmann, the Bundesliga's top goal scorer last season, is also included. He has just started playing again after eight weeks out with an ankle injury.

Direct

The two sides, who drew 0-0 in their first meeting in the group last October in Munich, are the main contenders for the one direct place in next year's finals in Italy from Group Four which also includes Wales and Finland.

Squad: Goalkeeper: Raimond Aumann, Bodo Illger.

Defence: Klaus Augenthaler, Thomas Berthold, Guido Buchwald, Holger Fach, Juergen Kohler, Stefan Reuter, Wolfgang Rolff.

Midfield: Andreas Brehme, Lothar Matthaeus, Thomas Haessler, Guenter Hermann, Andreas Moeller, Olaf Thon.

Forwards: Juergen Klinsmann, Pierre Littbarski, Frank Mill, Karl-Heinz Riedle, Rudi Voeller.

UEFA president apologises for controversial comments

BERNE, April 19, (Reuters) The president of the European Football Union (UEFA) said yesterday he may have reacted too harshly when he labelled Liverpool fans 'beasts' after the Sheffield stadium disaster in northern England.

Jacques Georges wrote to English Football Association (FA) chairman Bert Millichip to explain his controversial comments that followed the death of 95 fans on Saturday.

Georges said he had "perhaps reacted too violently" in his remarks during a French radio interview on Monday. He acknowledged that, now he was calmer, he could see his words were perhaps too harsh.

Asked about the crush of Liverpool fans at Sheffield's Hillsborough stadium that ended in the deaths of 95 spectators, Georges had said "One had the impression they were beasts who wanted to charge into an arena. It was not far from hooliganism."

The English FA condemned the remarks as "untrue, disrespectful to the dead and utterly insensitive." British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd said of Georges: "I cannot understand how a man of that experience should make remarks which show that he knew nothing of the event he was commenting on."

In his letter to Millichip released by UEFA, Georges said: "It is with pain that I have read the comments by the English authorities and press on the interviews requested of me."

Reaction

"I would like to ask you to try and understand the reaction of the president of UEFA, who, for the last four years, has been marked by the drama of Heysel in the very depths of his heart."

Georges, a Frenchman, said seeing pictures of the Sheffield tragedy brought back memories of Brussels' Heysel stadium on May 29 1985, when rioting Liverpool fans caused 39 deaths, mostly Italians, at the European Cup final.

English clubs were banned indefinitely from European competitions in the aftermath. UEFA's executive committee decided in Portugal last week to readmit them in the 1990-91 season if the British government supported the move.

"I would like you to know that your bereavement is the same as mine, and that I feel for you as well as for all of English football," Georges wrote to Millichip.

"I was so happy, as you saw yourself, to see the decision of Lisbon, which I felt finally gave us light at the end of the tunnel. I kindly ask you to present UEFA's sincere and heartfelt condolence to the Football Association of England, the clubs and the innocent victims."



A young boy on crutches stands in front of the 'Kop-end' goalmouth of the Anfield stadium, which is piled with flowers and scarves as tributes to the fans who died at Hillsborough. (Reuters wirephoto)

Liverpool fans robbed corpses

Policemen harassed, punched and kicked

LONDON, April 19, (Reuters) Drunken Liverpool fans looted the corpses of supporters crushed to death in Hillsborough soccer stadium and attacked police tending to the injured, British newspapers reported today.

The reports said fans pilfered money and possessions from the dead and attacked police after Saturday's crowd crush killed 95 people at a football match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest in the northern city of Sheffield.

The Daily Express quoted Conservative Sheffield Member of Parliament Irvine Patnick as saying: "I spoke to many policemen in the makeshift mortuary. They told me they were harassed, punched and kicked."

"They had no reason to lie. I saw the bruises on their bodies," he added. "One important question that must be answered is what part alcohol played in this whole tragic business."

Police have been severely criticised for a senior officer's decision to open a gate that let



Volunteers at the Hillsborough stadium pour buckets of coins, donated by visitors for Sheffield victims, into a dustbin to be taken to the city's town hall to be counted. (Reuters wirephoto)

thousands of fans surge onto a packed terrace already filled with standing supporters. It was Britain's worst sporting disaster.

But they say that decision was taken under extreme pressure as

waves of supporters swept towards the stadium in the last minutes before the start of the Football Association Cup semifinal.

The Daily Telegraph quoted Paul Middelup, chairman of the South Yorkshire Police Federation, as saying many of the fans had been drinking heavily before the game.

"There was mass drunkenness among many of the 3,000 supporters who turned up at the turnstiles just before kick-off. Some of them were uncontrollable. A great number of them had obviously been drinking heavily," he said.

Other newspapers quoted unnamed police officers as saying fans had urinated on them as they attempted to save lives after the crush.

Liverpool supporters and club officials have fiercely rejected suggestions that hooliganism caused the disaster.

Meanwhile Liverpool club officials voted to wait for another week before deciding whether to participate in the FA Cup again

this year.

Two Liverpool games scheduled for this week have been cancelled, including a title showdown against League-leading Arsenal that had been set for Sunday. Team chief executive Peter Robinson said Liverpool probably will not play again until a scheduled May 3 League match with crosstown rival Everton.

Scheduled

But Football League president Jack Dunnett said other teams should plan to play their games scheduled for Saturday.

"Life must go on," Dunnett said.

It was also announced that Bayern Munich would play Liverpool in a charity soccer match to raise money for the families of Liverpool fans killed in the Sheffield stadium disaster, Bayern said yesterday.

Bayern officials said they expected to raise about two million marks (\$1 million) from the match. The date and the venue of the match will be set later.

NFL to go international

NEW YORK, April 19, (Reuters) The National Football League (NFL) will go international next year under a plan approved by team owners yesterday to bring professional American football to Europe in the form of a new League.

"The clubs by unanimous consent have approved the concept of formation of an international League and they named as president Tex Schramm who is resigning from the Cowboys," NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle announced at a news conference following meetings by team owners.

Schramm, who has been general manager of the Dallas Cowboys since the team's inception 29 years ago, and a committee of six NFL representatives have

been charged with setting up the League which will have teams in the United States and Europe.

"I have a great deal of anticipation and a great deal of excitement and a great deal of pleasure in looking forward to taking American Football across the water, away from this continent, making it truly the start of being an international sport," said the 68-year-old Schramm, who declared, "a new era" for American football.

Interest

Schramm said most of the details of the new League had still to be worked out including sites for teams. He anticipated approximately 12 teams, half of which would be based in Europe.

"We're trying to gear up to

have teams on the field and go by next spring," said Schramm, who mentioned Britain, Italy and West Germany as countries where there appeared to be great interest in American football.

London is a very likely candidate (for a team), he said. "We hope London will be one of our anchors."

British sports fans have been enthusiastic in their response to several NFL pre-season exhibition games staged at London's Wembley stadium.

Schramm said teams based in Europe and the United States would play each other during the regular season.

He also denied reports that the International Football League would be a training ground for the NFL.

Charlton outgrinds Thorburn

SHEFFIELD, England, April 19, (Reuters) "The Grandfather," ground down "The Grinder," at the World Snooker Championship today.

Eddie Charlton of Australia, 59, finally ousted sixth-seeded former champion Cliff Thorburn of Canada 10-9 in a struggle lasting 10 hours 24 minutes and finishing at 0239 local time today.

The victory for Charlton, a snooker professional for nearly 30 years and twice a world championship runner-up including a heartbreaking 31-30 defeat by Ray Reardon in the 1975 final — was the biggest upset yet in this championship.

Late yesterday, Tony Meo of England subdued 1986 champion Joe Johnson, also of England, 10-5 after taking an 8-0 lead and weathering a desperate

comeback attempt. Johnson was seeded 11th.

There has only once been a later finish at Sheffield than Charlton and Thorburn. That was Thorburn's 13-12 win over Terry Griffiths in the second round in 1985 which took until 3.51 am.

They were to have finished yesterday afternoon but ran out of time with Charlton leading 8-6.

When they resumed after the night matches, Charlton appeared to have blown his chance after missing an easy blue when poised for a 10-7 victory.

Thorburn, known as "The Grinder" for his tenacity, was favourite in the final frame but a break of 50 took Charlton through.

"It is a bit of a miracle," Charlton said.

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